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219 Graham Street  
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January 22, 2010

Environmental Quality Control  
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Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

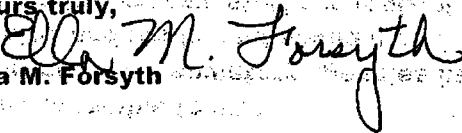
**In light of major environmental concerns surrounding Marcellus Shale drilling in Pennsylvania I, as a concerned citizen, urge the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to support the federal bill S.1215 the FRAC ACT, which would repeal an earlier amendment to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 2005. That amendment specifically exempted the natural gas industry from compliance with regulations requiring disclosure of chemicals used in the extraction process referred to as fracturing. Because many of the chemicals being detected in the wastewaters resulting from Marcellus Shale drilling are found to be highly toxic, I think it imperative that the drilling companies and/or well owners not be exempted from regulations outlined in the 2005 Safe Drinking Water Act.**

**In the scramble to bring more revenue into the state, water treatment and environmental regulatory agencies have been stressed beyond their ability to develop and implement sound practices for ensuring safe drinking water. The knowledge, money, staff and legislation required to prevent, monitor, treat and dispose of contaminants fall woefully short of what is needed. Procedures that have been used to extract natural gas in Texas are proving to be more risky in the Appalachian range of West Virginia and Pennsylvania where permeable rock formations are capable of transmitting the toxic wastewaters (including cadmium, benzene, and high levels of salt) into the aquifer—as already demonstrated in and near the Monongahela River in West Virginia as well as in methane leaks affecting drinking water in at least seven counties in Pennsylvania (Scientific American, Oct. 5, 2009)**

**The risks to our environment and our populace require immediate governmental action to prohibit further drilling until adequate wastewater treatment plants are in place and the Department of Environmental Regulation is ready to implement strong safeguards requiring wastewater treatment prior to discharge into our drinking water supply. To do otherwise is to take the DEP out of its role as environmental protector and put it on the side of environmental plunderers.**

Yours truly,

Ella M. Forsyth



IRRES/EXIT