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A Division of the American Petroleum Institute
Public Meeting of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
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Good afternoon.

My name is Stephanie Wissman. I am the Executive Director of the Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania, a Division of the American Petroleum Institute.

Our number one priority at API is to provide energy in a safe, scientifically sound manner while also having the least possible impact on the environment. Our members take this responsibility very seriously. At API we work with federal and state agencies to develop and design standards, recommended practices, and guidance initiatives to bolster operational integrity and ensure the health and safety of our communities and the environment.

To this end, our industry supports effective science-based regulation that fosters safety and protects the air, land and water – rules that are clear, with tangible benefits that warrant costs, and that work in concert with safe and responsible energy development. Regulation and oversight are important to U.S. natural gas and oil exploration, development and production, and our industry is well-regulated by both the federal and state governments.

The Delaware River Basin Commission also centers its watershed management efforts on sound science. Accordingly, it is imperative that any final decision on the proposed Special Regulations Regarding Natural Gas Development Activities be based on sound science as well.

The science clearly indicates that, with an emphasis on prevention (through the application of proper well design and other industry standards) energy production can and is being done right, and that hydraulic fracturing is not leading to widespread, systemic effects to drinking water resources.

EPA's exhaustive, 6 year, \$30 million study's finding of no widespread effects from hydraulic fracturing activities to drinking water quality is a reflection of the effectiveness of these practices.

A wide variety of recent reputable studies by both government agencies and academic institutions also support the conclusion that hydraulic fracturing is not a major threat to drinking water. Perhaps most importantly, the neighboring Susquehanna River Basin Commission's extensive, real-time water quality monitoring network consistently shows that natural gas operations in the commonwealth are not contributing to negative impacts on water quality in the basin.

A recent PWC study shows that oil and natural gas production in Pennsylvania supports more than 320,000 jobs in the commonwealth, including direct industry jobs as well as jobs in the wholesale/retail, construction, manufacturing and other sectors.

This same study shows that these jobs saw roughly \$23 billion in wages paid to individual Pennsylvanians in 2015 because of natural gas and oil activity. These jobs are the cornerstone of a nearly \$45 billion value added economic impact to the commonwealth. That's the contribution this industry has made to Pennsylvania's economy.

As API is a standard setting organization, we play an essential role in leading the development of industry standards to protect our environment. In fact, API has developed a series of hydraulic fracturing recommended practices that continue to be revised and updated. These recommended practices can be found on our website and I encourage you to explore them.

With these standards guiding our ever improving industry practices, the development and implementation of an extremely robust regulatory program managed by our Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and overarching Federal regulations all working together, we have an effective structure

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that allows for the essential development of Pennsylvania's natural gas resources while also protecting our treasured environmental resources.

I want to urge the Commission to consider the scientific data, the available studies, both state and federal regulations, and also industry best practices and the significant technology and engineering advancements in this industry that make safe and responsible development possible. We have seen it work across the Commonwealth and all over the nation. We can have safe and responsible development in the Delaware River Basin as well.