

# **Resolution of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party in Support of a Statewide Moratorium on Hydraulic Fracturing**

WHEREAS, a fundamental purpose of government is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 27 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania declares: “The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania’s public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people;” and

WHEREAS, in recent years corporations drilling for natural gas and oil within the Commonwealth have employed a drilling technique known as hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” that requires, for each well drilled, the withdrawal of millions of gallons of fresh water from our watersheds, and the injections of thousands of gallons of chemicals into the ground, many of them toxic to humans and animals; and

WHEREAS, multiple scientific studies have documented pollution of the air, water, and land caused by hydraulic fracturing in many Pennsylvania counties; and

WHEREAS, citizens throughout the Commonwealth have suffered injury to their health and property as a result of poorly-regulated hydraulic fracturing; and

WHEREAS, corrosive and toxic waste water or “flowback” water from hydraulic fracturing has overwhelmed wastewater treatment plants in western Pennsylvania and permitted the release of harmful heavy metals, carcinogens, and radioactive elements into the water supply; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of the natural gas infrastructure, including transmission pipelines, compressor stations, power plants, impoundment pits, drilling rigs, refineries, and thousands of heavy trucks constantly on our roads and highways has industrialized and degraded the environment of many communities; and

WHEREAS, the Corbett Administration has not only failed to tax the fossil fuel industry in any way commensurate with the costs of the environmental damage the industry is inflicting on the Commonwealth, but has also failed to adequately enforce existing environmental law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Pennsylvania supports a moratorium on the practice of hydraulic fracturing until such time as the practice can be done safely, and further supports requiring full restitution by the natural gas industry for any harm to human life and health, for damage to property, including loss of property value, for harm to water supplies, harm to wildlife, pets and livestock, and harm to the natural environment of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sue Lyons – Monroe County  
Judy Fiske – Monroe County  
Anne Tiracchia – Monroe County  
Rosie Skomitz – Berks County  
Ron Stouffer – Berks County

Lani Frank – Chester County  
Shirley Curry – Montgomery County  
Ruth Damsker – Montgomery County  
Karen Bojar – Philadelphia County  
John Peeler – Union County