

**Comments for DRBC Meeting
West Trenton, New Jersey
December 8, 2011**

My name is Elizabeth (Betty) Tatham, I am a member of the League of Women Voters of Bucks County. Today, I was asked to represent the League of Women Voters of Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. The four State Leagues would like to thank Governor Markell and Governor Cuomo for their wise and courageous action in deciding to vote “No” on the proposed regulations that if approved, would have allowed hydraulic fracturing for natural gas to commence in the Delaware River Basin in just a few months. We also want to thank the other Commissioner, or perhaps Commissioners who voted to cancel the meeting for November 21 at which regulations were expected to be approved.

The four State Leagues worked together, analyzing the proposed preliminary regulations and also the final regulations and we strongly urge the 5 Commissioners to wait for the EPA Study results that will show how and if drilling for natural gas using horizontal hydraulic fracturing or fracking can be done in the Delaware River Basin without jeopardizing the water and health of 15,600,000 people or 5% of our country’s population.

The League of Women Voters of DE, NJ, NY and PA also want to express our deep appreciation for the dedication and wonderful work the Commissioners and Executive Director Carol Collier and her staff have done in past years to achieve the high level of water quality we enjoy today. Fifty years ago Congress gave the DRBC the job of protecting the water quality, quantity and scenic beauty of the Delaware River. Today 81% of Delaware, 34% of NJ, 35% of NY and 42% of PA residents are fortunate to get their water from the Delaware River Basin. We highly recommend that no action be taken and the moratorium be allowed to continue until the EPA’s cumulative impact study is completed and can give direction.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you on behalf of the 4 State Leagues.