

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 3, 2013

Ms. Carol R. Collier
Executive Director
Delaware River Basin Commission
25 State Police Drive
PO Box 7360
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

Dear Ms. Collier:

I am writing to you regarding the Delaware River Basin Commission's (DRBC) delay in finalizing standards for natural gas development. As you know, the DRBC holds jurisdiction over 13 Pennsylvania counties, several of which contain known deposits of natural gas. Since the DRBC cancelled its scheduled November 2011 meeting, which would have finalized rules for natural gas development, a de facto moratorium on natural gas production has been imposed on these counties. This delay in finding an agreeable way to safely capitalize on this valuable resource is unacceptable and is tremendously unfair to my constituents who are already struggling to revitalize their local economies. I urge you to move forward and finalize natural gas development standards, lift the moratorium, and allow my constituents to increase economic development in this region.

For far too long, families across the nation have struggled to pay their bills and earn a living. In many parts of our country, including Northeastern Pennsylvania, unemployment remains unacceptably high. In fact, it is still above 10 percent in certain counties in my state. As we have seen elsewhere in Pennsylvania, natural gas development has the potential to deliver true economic stimulus by providing land-owners with much needed capital, creating jobs and offering an inexpensive source of energy to power households and businesses.

I understand that concerns have been raised about the potential impact natural gas development could have on our environment and I believe we can all agree that natural gas reserves must be extracted in a safe and responsible manner. That said, the Pennsylvania state government has proved itself a trustworthy environmental steward. It has enacted significant legislation and a robust regulatory framework to monitor industry activity and ensure the continued protection of human health and the environment. I am confident that the goals of increasing economic growth and protecting our environment are not mutually exclusive.

Again, for the sake of my constituents and every struggling family who could benefit from a stronger economy, lower energy costs, and increased job opportunities, I ask that you promptly convene a meeting of DRBC commissioners to finalize natural gas development standards in the Delaware River Basin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pat Toomey". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "P" and a cursive "T" that extends into the first name.

Pat Toomey
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Tom Corbett, Governor of Pennsylvania
The Honorable Jack Markell, Governor of Delaware
The Honorable Chris Christie, Governor of New Jersey
The Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor of New York
Brigadier General Kent Savre, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers