



National Parks Conservation Association®
Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations®

National
Headquarters

May 27, 2011

The Honorable Diana DeGette
U. S. House of Representatives
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeGette:

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), I would like to express our support for H.R. 1084, the Fracturing Responsibility & Awareness of Chemicals (FRAC) Act. Amending the Safe Drinking Water Act so that chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, are disclosed to the public will help safeguard public health and water resources within America's national parks.

NPCA is very concerned that the exemption under the Safe Drinking Water Act for fracking puts the water quality in our national parks, like Denali National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and other national parks throughout the country at risk. This is especially true for park units along the Delaware River—the Upper Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River, Middle Delaware National Scenic River, and Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area—that face the most immediate threat.

These three park units draw 5.4 million annual visitors and provide exceptional recreational opportunities in one of the cleanest rivers in the country. They are home to spellbinding waterfalls and diverse wildlife that include bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and black bear. The Delaware River also provides drinking water to 17 million people. With 15,000 – 18,000 natural gas wells anticipated in the Delaware River Basin alone, if not adequately regulated, the impacts to park resources, including water quality and quantity, air quality, and wildlife migration and habitat, could be catastrophic.

We look forward to working with you to pass the FRAC Act so that future generations can enjoy the unspoiled condition of the Delaware River and national parks throughout the country

Sincerely,

Craig Obey
Senior Vice President for Government Affairs