

Schuylkill River Heritage Area  
Resolution on Marcellus Shale  
February 16, 2012

WHEREAS, the Schuylkill River Heritage Area is one of 49 Congressionally designated Heritage Areas in the United states and one of 12 state designated Heritage Areas in Pennsylvania and,

WHEREAS, Heritage Areas use conservation, recreation, education cultural and historic preservation and tourism as tools for community revitalization and economic development and,

WHEREAS, the natural gas found in the Marcellus Shale and other formations in Pennsylvania provides both outstanding economic opportunities and equally outstanding environmental risk and,

WHEREAS, one of the goals of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area as noted in our Management Plan, *Living with the River*, is to preserve and restore the Schuylkill River Valley's significant environmental resources, particularly those vital to the health of the river and its tributaries and,

WHEREAS, Heritage Areas and preservation advocacy organizations agree there is a need to consider heritage, cultural, natural environmental and historic resources including archeological sites before gas drilling takes place and,

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's long history of providing natural resources to fuel the industrial revolution through the post World War II economic boom illustrates previous misuse of the state's natural resources where the people were left with environmental devastation and massive cleanup and,

WHEREAS, drilling in the Marcellus Shale uses a new industrial activity called hydraulic fracturing known as fracking that has the potential to disrupt the environment and this method of gas extraction puts a strain on water use; and if the water is not reused, drillers must treat the water to drinking water standards before disposing of it in the waters of Pennsylvania. And as local municipal water treatment plants cannot treat such water adequately, Pennsylvania water may be placed at serious risk.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Schuylkill River Heritage Area encourages the Pennsylvania Legislature and the Governor to work with state government agencies to take into consideration heritage resources including historic, cultural and archeological sites when permitting Marcellus Shale drilling,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Legislature and the Governor consider the long term impacts from drilling on the water quality of the Delaware River Basin and in particular the Schuylkill River Watershed and the positions outlined by the Philadelphia Water Department in their Marcellus Shale Position Paper of December 2011, as found at [www.phillywatershed.org/marcellus-shale-drilling-delaware-river-basin](http://www.phillywatershed.org/marcellus-shale-drilling-delaware-river-basin)

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to all State Legislators in the Schuylkill River Heritage Area and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.