



DAMASCUS CITIZENS FOR SUSTAINABILITY
CLEAN WATER, AIR AND LAND ARE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS

Dear Supporter,

The Covid-19 pandemic has presented unique challenges to DCS, yet it gives unprecedented opportunity to all who recognize the urgency of bringing an end to the fossil fuel era. The pandemic-triggered economic downturn has crushed demand and significantly reduced prices and cash flow for big oil and gas; it has knocked down the financial house of cards that has been built by the over-indebted natural gas industry. Moreover, the impact on Covid-19 health outcomes (with co-morbidities like asthma and cancer), many of which are strongly correlated with fossil fuel development and use, are additional strong and urgent arguments for an immediate phase-out of these fuels.

With important victories in sight on several fronts, and dangerous losses still to be averted on others, it is vital that we not only continue to negotiate the obstacles that the pandemic presents, but also move forward to take advantage of this moment in history. Your generous contributions, crucial to our headway so far, are essential in making this future possible. Here are some of the fronts we are working on:

- **The Delaware River Basin Commission's (DRBC) proposed ban on fracking in the Delaware River Basin is still pending**, while various legal and legislative threats are playing out on the front burners. We continue pushing the commissioners (the governors) to vote on a total ban by mobilizing localities to pass resolutions, and we actively encourage businesses as well as individuals to speak up about the proposed ban. The ban, in addition to blocking drilling, must include zero import and disposal of wastes in the Delaware Basin, and no removal of water for fracking activities elsewhere.

Covid 19 has slowed the never-speedy court system, but the primary legal threat currently facing the DRBC has not gone away: Wayne Land and Mineral Group's lawsuit claims that the DRBC does not have the right to regulate their proposed fracking operations. We submitted an amicus brief describing the impacts if drilling or waste disposal occurs in the Delaware River Basin.

With your help, we will continue to work with the team **defending the DRBC**; we provide crucial scientific and historical information that supports its authority.

- We will continue raising awareness about the connection between natural gas, rising global methane levels and climate change. Methane from gas is increasing devastating climate impacts worldwide. We have raised this connection for a decade. We also foster a greater awareness of what *should* be happening: **TRANSITIONING TO A FOSSIL-FUEL FREE FUTURE**. We educate about renewable energy, affordable efficiency, and the best choices for personal and municipal energy.
- **NY Governor Andrew Cuomo signed legislation this past August reclassifying fracking related waste as hazardous.** It was DCS that began the push for this important step toward a total ban back in 2010, and **NYC banned frack waste disposal in NYC sewage plants in 2016** out of this same effort. But let's not forget that New York State continues to allow frack waste transport and disposal. Please help change that.
- The PA Attorney General is conducting an ongoing investigation of environmental crimes related to fracking, which this year yielded its first two indictments and a scathing report criticizing not only the industry,*but PA regulators, for failing to protect the state's citizens.

Our educator/advocate program has nurtured progress for years through our one-on-one work



August 16, 2016 lead sponsor NY City Council Member Stephen Levin and representatives from environmental groups celebrate the first in the nation ban on discharge or use of oil and gas waste products including that from fracking. DCS' Mav Moorhead is next to the Councilman.

DCS
P.O.Box 147
Milanville, PA 18443

DCS@DamascusCitizens.org
Phone 845-252-6677

www.DamascusCitizens.org

helping households with health impacts and navigating past hostile local officials to the AG's office. At our urging, a hotline was established that allows people to get their complaints directly to that office—especially important in the Covid-19 era, as the households we network, overwhelmed by threats to economic survival posed by the pandemic, are increasingly fearful of antagonizing the local officials and businesses whom they need to stay economically afloat. Unfortunately, that hotline has not been well publicized...so far.

We want to **amplify our outreach regarding the AG's investigation by advertising the hotline** in "weekly shoppers" serving areas we know to be especially badly affected. But we need continued funding in order to implement this program and to continue our direct assistance to ravaged households.

- The grand jury's report** that accompanied the first two indictments was so critical of the PA Department of Environmental Protection's ineffectiveness against drilling industry malfeasance that it may provide us with **a new opening in an old battle**: the drilling industry has been fighting hard to gut the Chapter 78a regulations, proposed 6 years ago, to protect the environment against fracking. In 2018 DCS requested intervenor status, which would allow us broad abilities to submit information and arguments to the courts related to this case. At that time, the request was denied on the grounds that our interests, as environmental advocates, were being represented by the PA DEP- NOT!

We plan to renew our **request for intervenor status** on the basis of the grand jury report indicating that the PA DEP is in fact *not* acting in the best interests of the environment and human health. But to file this request, and take advantage of the multiple opportunities that would open up if we succeed, we need your help to fund the initiative.

There are many more fronts on which we continue to fight: We **help communities** threatened by fracking **all over the world** to organize; we **interact with members of the press** and connecting them with households who have experienced devastation; we **educate the public and policymakers** about the risks of fracking and related infrastructure and activities. And we are always **coordinating with other activist groups**, both major and grassroots, making the incremental changes that we all want to see possible.

With every one of these projects, and all the other work Damascus Citizens accomplishes in our Narrowsburg, NY office, in the field and through digital channels, we gain crucial ground in the battle to save the planet from the ravages of the fossil fuel era. Please help us continue to move forward and to make this moment in history really count.

A donation in any amount keeps us fighting. Every single contribution is meaningful!

Sincerely, and the happiest of
winter seasons to you and yours,



Barbara Arrindell
Director
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability

Please make your contribution today!

Use PayPal /Credit Card via the DONATE BUTTON at
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Or send a check to:

DCS • P.O.Box 147 • Milanville, PA 18443

* PA Grand Jury report <https://bit.ly/3nH7qrh>

** PA Attorney General establishes a fracking hotline <https://bit.ly/36VhHtc>