

December 6, 2019

Dear Valued Supporter:

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability (DCS) would like to thank you for your support through the years to help us in our effort to protect human rights to clean air, land and water in the face of fossil fuel development.

As you know, our primary goal has been to stop hydrofracking (high volume hydraulic fracturing or shale gas & oil extraction) and counter the industry's claim that hydrofracking is a non-toxic technological miracle to safely extract energy for future generations. Nothing can be further from the truth - it is in fact highly toxic to our health and environment and a major contributor to climate change imperiling future generations. Besides not being economically viable this "cheap" energy (both gas and oil) is supported by huge government subsidies and environmental exemptions to major protective laws that externalize liability from the industry to future generations for damages they've known all along they would cause.

What makes us different than other environmental organizations who are involved with this work? We have from our inception been giving media and local groups the information, tools, and science, to empower themselves to counter industry propaganda. We offer them these tools to use as their own. We also help communities form their own groups from which to defend their homes, and communities. Our collaborative work has always been with a larger end goal in mind of climate, human, and environmental health by focusing on national goals while growing the local groups. NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) is not a bad word - people speaking from their homes have their greatest strength. The large green organizations' focus many times is getting contributions and growing their membership as opposed to addressing serious goals and local impacts and fostering those local groups.

In the last year, DCS has pursued actions in a number of critical areas to ensure that the above mentioned rights are preserved in the Delaware River Basin and beyond. Over 85% of all DCS income goes to services, not to overhead, so almost all of this contribution went directly toward our anti-fracking and anti-drilling work. Significant progress has been made in some areas, while others remain a steady slog; in all cases, further work remains to be done.

On the attached pages we describe key issues, efforts, and developments as well as the work that will continue on each issue area, as outlined below. We hope that, on the basis of this information, you might be willing to provide assistance for some or all of these programs. In 2019, contributions supported all these programs.

- **Protecting public health**

Fracking is making people sick—especially children—all around the country. DCS is fighting to get the facts on the public record, raise awareness, and protect the vulnerable. (refer to page 1 of the narrative for more info)

- **Fighting oil and gas-related toxins in the environment**

From contaminated wastewater to methane emissions to silicate sands used in the fracturing process, fracking is bleeding massive quantities of poison into the environment. DCS is fighting to stem the flow. (refer to page 2 of the narrative for more info)

- **Environmental justice/holding industry and regulators accountable**

The deep-pocketed drilling industry, via lobbying, regulatory capture and perpetual litigation, is constantly finding ways to evade the public's protections against the damage they cause. DCS is working to use the fundamental protections of rights built into federal and state law to block the industry and hold regulators to account. (refer to page 4 of the narrative for more info)

- **Defending interstate regulatory protections of the Delaware River Watershed**

A group of landowners that wants to commence fracking in the watershed is attacking the jurisdictional authority of the DRBC (Delaware River Basin Commission), an interstate regulatory agency created in 1961, to protect the purity of a four state watershed serving 20 Million people. DCS is in the midst of the fray, providing our special expertise—especially on environmental and health issues—into the court proceedings. Also the DRBC is going into it's third year of not voting in the proposed regulations. (refer to page 5 of the narrative for more info)

- **Educating media**

The essential, most important requirement of making the permanent policy changes needed to protect the public from the various damages of fracking—from climate change to cancer—is getting the truth out to the public. DCS plays a key role in providing the facts of the subject to members of the media, combatting the industry propaganda machine and seeing to it that the public is educated and armed with relevant information. (refer to page 3 of the narrative for more info)

Please consider making a contribution this year. Your contribution would have a great impact by allowing us to continue this fight to protect the environment from the contamination and destruction caused by hydro fracking.

Thank you for making these important efforts and so much more possible!

Sincerely,



Barbara Arrindell
Director
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability