*Kingston, NY -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement applauding New York State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman's pledge to pursue legal action if the Delaware River Basin Commission does not commit to conducting a full environmental review of hydraulic fracturing before finalizing regulations to allow new gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin. Hinchey is a co-chair of the Congressional Delaware River Task Force, author of the FRAC Act and the legislative language that initiated a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study on hydraulic fracturing.*

"Attorney General Schneiderman is right to call for an environmental review of the hydraulic fracturing regulations proposed by the Delaware River Basin Commission.

"For years, I have been advising the DRBC to undertake a cumulative environmental impact study prior to the issuance of regulations. Now the commission may face legal action as a result of its failure to undertake this study.

"The DRBC should suspend their rulemaking process and initiate an environmental impact study along the lines of what the Attorney General and I have requested."