Congressman Says Cumulative Impact Study Essential to Protecting Drinking Water from Shale Gas Drilling Risks

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement in support of New York State Attorney General Schneiderman's lawsuit to compel the Delaware River Basin Commission to conduct a cumulative environmental impact study of shale gas drilling in the Delaware River Watershed.

"I've long called on the DRBC to conduct a cumulative impact study so that we can fully understand the environmental risks associated with shale gas drilling in the Delaware River Watershed. Given the reckless way in which hydraulic fracturing has been carried out in other parts of the country, it is important that we understand all of the environmental impacts that would result if drilling were to move forward in the basin.

"I applaud Attorney General Schneiderman for taking the next step and holding the federal agencies represented at the DRBC accountable. Instead of spending taxpayer dollars in court, these agencies should use those resources to conduct the environmental reviews necessary to protect the water resources upon which millions rely."