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January 16, 2010

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Environmental Quality Board
PO Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Dear Environmental Quality Board –

I am writing to you today to ask that you strengthen the regulations and oversight on the process of Marcellus Gas drilling in Pennsylvania and the treatment and disposal of the resulting Marcellus wastewater.

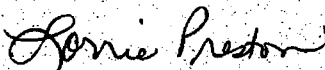
While I understand the need for energy resources, the financial benefits to our state, and the jobs that are being created by the drilling for Marcellus Shale, I feel that we have gotten ahead of ourselves in issuing permits and allowing this process to surge forward without adequate safety controls, oversights, and pollution regulations being implemented.

The frackwater that is left behind once the gas has been extracted needs to be monitored and measured to ensure that it is not causing degradation of our natural resources, including both water and air. The leftover wastewater is made up of a number of contaminants, including bromides, arsenic, benzene, radium, magnesium and volatile organic compounds that could come back to haunt us all in the form of polluted water, wildlife and habitat destruction, and cancer. Each of these discharged materials needs to be measured, regulated and controlled on a daily basis – not a monthly average.

We need tight regulations in place as soon as possible. I urge you to stop issuing permits for the drilling of Marcellus Shale until we have a better system of monitoring and control in place. The companies that are doing the drilling should be paying a tax or a fee on the process to cover remediation efforts that will likely be necessary in the future for the damage that they are doing to our natural resources.

The people of Pennsylvania must be able to know without a doubt that this Marcellus shale drilling process is not going to leave damage to our natural areas, to our fish and wildlife, and to our own health that will cause us financial strife and decrease our quality of life for years to come. We are counting on you to put the stiff regulations in place to protect us all. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lorrie A. Preston



Mrs. Lorrie Preston
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