

KATHY L. RAPP, MEMBER
65TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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Written Testimony by
State Representative Kathy Rapp
Environmental Quality Board Hearing
Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2014



Good evening, it is my pleasure to welcome the members of the Environmental Quality Board, state lawmakers and our many expert testifiers to Warren County.

You have already received a letter dated February 4, 2014 from Senator Hutchinson and signed by 14 other legislators. We represent the area of western Pennsylvania, known to us as the Pennsylvania Oil Patch.

This is due to the indisputable fact that this area, particularly Titusville, Crawford County, where Colonel Edwin Drake drilled the world's first successful oil well, is the area where modern oil and gas exploration production began more than a century and a half ago. It is the well that saved the whale!

Before I begin my testimony, I want to particularly thank my neighboring legislative colleague, State Representative Marty Causer, for all his efforts to make sure that the Board scheduled a

Harrisburg Office:
Warren Office:
Kane Office:

P.O. Box 202065 - Harrisburg, PA 17120-2065 - Phone: (717) 787-1367 - Fax: (717) 787-5854
404 Market Street - Warren, PA 16365 - Phone: (814) 723-5203 - Fax: (814) 728-3564
55 Fraley Street - Kane, PA 16735 - Phone: (814) 837-0880 - Fax: (814) 837-2257

E-mail: klrapp@pahousegop.comWeb: RepRapp.com

hearing in the middle of Pennsylvania's Oil Patch, the home of our conventional producers, and not only in the areas of the Marcellus Shale..

Again, as most of our expert testifiers will no doubt repeatedly emphasize, today, the conventional oil and gas industry is not just part of our heritage, but also continues to have significant direct and indirect impacts on our local and regional economies.

When Act 13 was being considered for passage in the General Assembly, I and other legislators, were given assurances from the Governor's Office, and the leaders in the Republican House that the regulations following the legislation would not affect our conventional wells. As a legislator, my intent was never to see legislation pass that treated both conventional and unconventional wells alike in the regulations.

Unfortunately, many of these proposed regulatory and legislative changes do not adequately account for the significant differences between conventional and unconventional development—and are thus threatening the future survival of this 150-year-old homegrown industry that fueled a worldwide industrial revolution and yielded the Pennsylvania Crude that allowed America to triumph in two World Wars.

Unlike well-funded and established multinational corporations – most of which are developing unconventional Marcellus Shale formations in a safe and responsible manner – smaller conventional operators, many of which are still operating within our surrounding Allegheny

National Forest, and western Pennsylvania are primarily multigenerational, mom-and-pop, family-owned small businesses.

Since Pennsylvania's Regulatory Review Act now requires the consideration of alternatives for small businesses, at minimum, the Department of Environmental Protection's proposed Act 78 regulations impacting oil and gas activities should be revised in a manner that establishes alternative technical requirements for smaller conventional operations that produce a few gallons of crude oil or natural gas on a daily basis, as opposed to Texas-sized barrels destined to fill a Super Tanker.

These proposed regulations geared toward large-scale unconventional wells are not only unnecessary for conventional shallow well drillers, but could very well represent a death sentence for this near-exclusive mom-and-pop industry.

While I appreciate the opportunity to testify against these proposed regulations that will so significantly impact an industry that has blessed the regions we represent with considerable economic benefits, I am even more proud to stand 110 percent behind our independent oil and gas producers in the battle to get government out of the way so that our rich industrial heritage can continue to grow and thrive throughout the 21st century and beyond.

Thank you.