

3042

ALBERT H. BIENSTOCK  
63 OLD PIONEER ROAD  
CAMP HILL, PA 17011  
ABienstock@aol.com

RECEIVED  
IRRC

2014 JAN 29 AM 9:30

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

CONFESSIONS OF A POLLUTER  
JANUARY 29, 2014

My name is Al Bienstock. I reside in Hampden Township at the above address.

Though I serve as president of Hampden Township's Board of Commissioners, these comments are my own since our Board has not yet discussed or taken a position on oil and gas regulation.

If I were reading this aloud, my every breath would be polluting your air by exhaling carbon dioxide.. Of course, I'm exhaling the same carbon dioxide simply by living. Since the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decrees CO<sub>2</sub> is a pollutant, I confess – I'm a polluter.

EPA, and other groups, decades ago warned us about "global cooling." When thermometers showed average temperatures increasing, the scare mantra changed to "global warming." That shibboleth lasted until more than a decade of relatively stagnant global temperatures showed it to be ludicrous. They apparently felt the need for us to have something to fear, so the mantra became "climate change." After all, since the world's climate has changed constantly since creation, people can be frightened – and regulated – based on that simple phrase. Whatever the perceived problem was called, they main culprit, they said, was fossil fuels. I drive a car and heat my home. I confess – I'm a polluter.

That brings us to fracking – which has been around for over six decades. Have there been abuses? Certainly. With every technology, someone does something wrong. But we now have the technology and controls to prevent and/or punish abuse.. Despite propaganda films showing flames atop waters in parts of Pennsylvania (which condition has existed since before the white man invaded "pristine" Indian territories), fracking was and is not the cause.

The history of the "environmentalism" movement is replete with overstating the potential for and effects of "pollution" and the imposition of draconian restraints on the advancement of technology. While the intent may be pure, unintended consequences are detrimental to our country. Curtailing this technology inhibits America's quest for energy independence and keeps us reliant on foreign energy sources. We must not foster energy production in countries with little or no regard for the environment. We also must not impede our economy to the advantage of others (including enemies). And, in this era of historically low employment (including millions who have left the job market), it is important not to devastate an industry that will produce hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvania jobs.

At the January 16 public hearing in Hampden Township, two individuals (on opposite sides of this issue) made the same simple request: base your decisions on valid science. I, too, urge you to rely on scientific evidence, not emotional pleas from self-styled "environmentalists" whose prognostications of doom and gloom cannot be scientifically demonstrated.

Thank you.