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Two Lick

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150 Two Lick Farm Lane
Homer City, PA 15748
724-479-3229

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FEB 19 2014

DEP Policy Office

February 7, 2014

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MAR - 5 2014

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to ask that the proposed revisions to PADEP's oil and gas rules not be finalized in their current form. I am a property owner who earns royalty revenue from conventional oil and gas activity on my land and I am concerned that the added burden of increased regulation and associated costs could significantly harm the industry while provide little or no added benefit to the environment.

From what I see, Pennsylvania's environment is in good hands with the oil and gas industry. Those who work on my property and others I encounter in this industry live, work and play in the same areas where the oil and gas industry operates, and they all share a passion for protecting the Commonwealth's natural resources. It is obvious that they - like me - want to pass on the legacy of a clean, healthy environment to our children and grandchildren.

I understand that regulations are necessary and must be updated periodically to match current laws and industry best practices. At the same time, however, the costs of regulations cannot outweigh their benefits. It is obvious to me that the onset of Marcellus shale drilling has sparked these proposed changes so why not concentrate on regulating that portion of the industry and leave the conventional industry as it currently is? When applied to conventional operators, many parts of these proposed rules go beyond what is called for under existing laws and impose requirements that go further than what is needed to effectively protect our environment.

I am concerned that the result will be fewer oil and gas wells drilled which could mean smaller royalty payments for me and my neighbors. For many of us, royalty revenue has breathed new life into family farms and small businesses all across Pennsylvania. Decreased oil and gas activity will also mean fewer jobs in the industry and in the communities that support it, at a time when we desperately need more jobs. It will also mean less tax revenue for all levels of government, placing even greater burdens on already-stressed government services. Fewer oil and gas wells will also mean less oil and gas supply which will once again increase our dependence on other countries for our energy needs.

Please vote "no" to adopting this rule unless it is substantially revised to reflect full consideration of the costs and benefits of the regulation. Show us that the wellbeing of our people, the prosperity of our communities and our energy future are every bit as important as Pennsylvania's natural resources.

Sincerely,


John A. Bonya