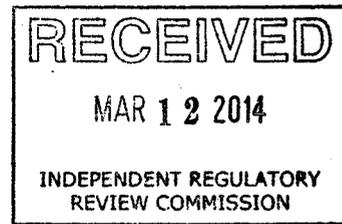


Testimony at EQB hearing  
February 12, 2014  
Warren County Courthouse 6 PM  
HOWARD DRILLING, Inc.



Hello,

I reside at 77 Howard Lane, Mt. Jewett, Pennsylvania.  
My name is Brianna Howard. I am a senior at the Smethport Area High School and the Daughter of Ted Howard, one of the owners of Howard Drilling. My father's business has been drilling, fracing, and producing conventional oil and gas wells in the heart of the Allegheny Mountains for last 50 years. He is the 4<sup>th</sup> generation to work in the industry and I am hoping my brothers will be 5<sup>th</sup> generation.

Many of my fellow classmate's parents are dependant on the Oil and Gas business. The small community where my dad and his family live depend on the jobs that Howard Drilling provides. Good jobs with benefits. Howard's have always been supportive of the community whether it be for fund raising activities or monetary contributions for our local Fire Department, schools, boy scouts, food pantry, etc. Our employees in turn support the local supermarket, coffee shop, restaurants, bank, hair dressers, auto supply store, hardware store, and gas station.

Let's talk about this country and its dependency on energy. What is Energy? Gasoline, what gets me to school, you to work, produce to grocery stores, deliveries inventory and parts to shops and businesses for repairs and maintenance, powers our lawn mowers and snow blowers, deliveries our internet orders, enables our emergency personnel to respond, etc. Natural Gas, we

depend on this highly efficient source of energy in order to heat our homes, run generators to provide electric to our homes, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and public buildings. Crude oil, provides numerous by-products to make our tires, asphalt, motor oil, makeup, plastics for packaging everything from milk to medicine, helmets, sports equipment, and toys, I could spend the good part of today just listing by-products of crude oil, many of which we take for granted. My point being, none of us would be in this building now, if we weren't dependant on energy. This very building and its contents would not be here without energy. If the water freezes, we had no heat right now, or there was a fire, who would you call? How would they respond? Horse and buggy? I don't think so.

We need to preserve the conventional oil and gas industry, not add more regulations. To include the conventional wells with the proposed changes to Chapter 78 is just not fair. Even I, still being a student, can clearly see that there is difference between the conventional and unconventional wells. Not only are the size of the location for a conventional well considerably smaller, but the equipment and manpower necessary to build and perform the drilling and completion operations, are a whole lot smaller scale compared to size of a unconventional wells locations. Needless to say, the production of our conventional wells is a fraction of what unconventional wells have produced. How can an operator of a conventional well pay for these new mandates? They clearly can't, these mandates will cripple my families' business and further harm our struggling community

Being that I will soon graduate, I am looking forward to continuing my education, I am a firm believer that education is our key to energy Independence. It's hard for me to believe that the liberal environmentalist in the south east part of Pennsylvania are so brain washed by their society, that they actually think by cutting a tree or seeing a pump jack or a tank in the woods is a threat to our environment. We need to be taught to think independently, not what some celebrity has been publicly preaching. I'd like to know what degree or what constitutes some of these celebrities to be experts on the environment.

Our for-fathers were all entrepreneurs, they built this country with blood, sweat, and tears. There were no rules or regulations. With all of the regulations we are faced with now, there's no incentive to young adults to be adventures and try to make in their own. If the Environmental Quality Board continues to treat the conventional wells the same as the unconventional wells, we will move backwards. I strongly urge that the proposed regulations be rewritten and separate these clearly two different types of wells, not just for the sake of my family's business, but for the families that depend on companies like ours to supply them with steady, good paying jobs, for my friends who plan to join the Oil and Gas industry, and most of all for the blue collar men, who work long hard days to provide us with the energy that our lives run on. Thank you.