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I am a fifth generation descendent in a Penn Grade Crude producing family and have lived among the oil wells all my life. My paternal grandfather came to Bradford in 1880 from Butler County and worked ten years for an oil company before beginning to purchase oil property for himself. He and his three sons, my father including, loved nature. To them, part of the joy of the oil business was working outside in the woods, enjoying the lush forests and the wildlife. They produced oil responsibly and always with the goal of keeping the woods clean and safe. Now, over 120 years later the lease is still being operated, in the same clean, responsible way that was the tradition of my family and **like the independent producers of today**, many of whom are right here in this very room. We are not big oil nor millionaires, but people trying to make a living and a legacy for their families by working in an industry that has given so much to the community, the state and the world and including the following areas:

1. **Jobs:** We have a refinery here that has operated for over 140 years. ARG buys our oil, refines it, and in the process provides jobs to between 400 and 500 people. They are also involved in much philanthropy in the area, doing good for others and helping to make the community a better place. The oil producers provide many more jobs to individuals with all kinds of skills in addition to purchasing products from local businesses. If the independent producers would be forced to shut down, then the refinery will not have oil to refine, many people would be unemployed and the area would die.

2. **Products:** You can't get up in the morning without using something made possible by a petroleum product – I have here a list of such things – products used in all areas of life: clothing, textiles, medical, household, kitchen, health and beauty, transportation (did you drive to this meeting??) home furnishings, sports, hobbies and games, and on and on. I invite you to look carefully at this list.

3. **Patents:** At the museum several years ago, we did a study of patents that came out of the Bradford Oil Field – we have five, three-inch binders containing such patents. Many more gifts to the world.

Tonight we are here because of regulations – regulations that some think should be applied to all oil and gas producers equally. The Marcellus and Utica shale industry is a totally different type of operation and should not be equated with the shallow oil producing industry. Marcellus drilling goes 5,000+ feet below the earth's surface and is done by large oil companies with budgets in the millions. Their well sites take up large

areas. The independent, conventional oil producers, on the other hand, have budgets in the thousands and very small well sites and cannot afford, nor do they need, the same regulations. To force the conventional producer into the same category as the Marcellus would destroy them and the area we live in.

You who worry about damage to the environment – think about this. Oil was discovered, not by a well, but by a seep. The first so called oil producers found oil on top of Oil Creek, sopped it up with blankets and wrung them out into a bucket. It was found in the creek and you can't blame oil producers for that one! Oil is a fossil fuel, it comes from the earth.

If you want to worry about a drop of salt water, maybe you should worry about all the salt they put on the roads in winter, then the plow comes and pushes snow and salt into the ditches and the streams. That is more than a drop of salt water, that is salt!

I live on a piece of property that one time had oil wells, but you wouldn't know it. I'm very healthy, the ground is clean, and the flowers and trees flourish.

In closing, I would like to say that I am proud of this industry and what it has done to make life better for all of us. I am proud of the people in this room who continue to produce oil in a clean, responsible way and I am proud to support them. I respectfully urge you to separate the conventional oil producers from the regulations applied to the Marcellus Shale industry.

Thank you,

Susan Gibson Perry
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