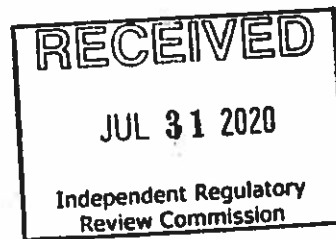


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July 27, 2020

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Board,

We write to you today in support of strong and consistent control requirements to cut methane and ozone forming pollutants from oil and gas operations and to urge the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to strengthen the proposed existing source rule prior to promulgation as a final-form regulation.

This year has truly underscored the critical importance of protecting public health for our communities. As local government officials, our task to safeguard the future for our families, neighbors, and constituents alike is more important than ever.

As natural gas production has rapidly grown across our state, one of the biggest challenges we faced – and one that still challenges us today – is how to best protect quality of life for all Pennsylvanians. Strong and consistent state controls are important to help those who experience the effects of oil and gas pollution in their backyard and to protect air quality and the climate for everyone.

That is why we support the DEP's efforts to require stronger controls for reducing methane and air emissions from oil and gas operations. Air and climate pollution does not stop at the city, county, or legislative district line. Leaking equipment and infrastructure presents serious concern for public health and climate statewide.

We should expect any responsible company to make regular efforts to prevent those emissions. And since methane is the primary constituent of natural gas, reducing emissions can generate additional revenue by preventing loss and bringing more product to market. If the industry is serious about being good neighbors, we can all agree that starts with making sure companies are serious about controlling all the pollution from their activities. It is the right thing to do.

Again, we encourage the DEP to strengthen the existing source oil and gas rule and ensure that controls are consistently applied to all operations and equipment in our state. Regular leak detection and repair requirements should be extended to low-producing wells, which are responsible for more than half of the 1.1 million tons of methane released annually during oil and gas development.

We must protect our climate and ensure that our air and communities are safe. Even though drilling rigs come and go, the wells and pipelines will remain and be in our communities for decades to come. We deserve to know that they are being properly inspected and maintained.

A strong final rule is sensible, cost effective, and essential for meeting Gov. Tom Wolf's climate goals and protecting the health of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

**Pennsylvania State Senate**

Senator John P. Blake  
District 22

Senator Maria Collett  
District 12

Senator and Democratic Leader Jay Costa  
District 43

Senator Wayne Fontana  
District 42

Senator Pam Iovino  
District 37

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Senator Katie Muth  
District 44

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District Senate District 10

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District 38

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District 70

Representative Tim Briggs  
District 149

Representative Donna Bullock  
District 195

Representative Joe Ciresi  
District 146

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District 156

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Representative Carol Hill-Evans  
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District 21

Representative Mary Isaacson  
District 175

Representative Malcolm Kenyatta  
District 181

Representative Patty Kim  
District 103

Representative Leanne Krueger  
District 161

Representative Maureen Madden  
District 115

Representative Stephen McCarter  
District 154

**Representative Dan Miller**  
District 42

**Representative Thomas P. Murt, Ed.D.**  
District 152

**Representative Jennifer O'Mara**  
District 165

**Representative Danielle Otten**  
District 155

**Representative Chris Quinn**  
District 168

**Representative Chris Rabb**  
District 200

**Representative Adam Ravenstahl**  
District 20

**Representative Ben Sanchez**  
District 153

**Representative Christina Sappey**  
District 158

**Representative Michael Schlossberg**  
District 132

**Representative Peter Schweyer**  
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District 202

**Representative Mike Sturla**  
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**Representative Wendy Ullman**  
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**Representative Greg Vitali**  
District 166

**Representative Perry Warren**  
District 31

**Representative Joe Webster**  
District 150

**Representative Mike Zabel**  
District 163

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Councilmember Anita Prizio  
District 3

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Commissioner Josh Maxwell

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At-Large

Councilmember Helen Gym  
At-Large

Councilmember Mark Squilla  
District 1

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Mayor William Peduto

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