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**Kathy Cooper**

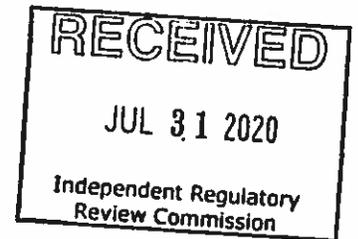
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**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 11:06 AM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com  
**Cc:** c-jflanaga@pa.gov  
**Subject:** Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Control of VOC Emissions from Oil and Natural Gas Sources (#7-544)

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The enclosed comment was received as part of the following testimony:

**Testimony name:** Public Hearing 3 - Proposed #7-544  
**Testimony date:** 6/25/2020 12:00:00 AM  
**Testimony location:** WebEx

**Re: eComment System**

**The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Control of VOC Emissions from Oil and Natural Gas Sources (#7-544).**

**Commenter Information:**

Laura Perkins  
(lperkins.letitbe@gmail.com)  
306 S Fairmount St, Apt 1  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232 US

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**Comments entered:**

Oral comments given at 25 June 2020 hearing. See emailed written comments below:

My name is Laura Perkins. I am a community member living at 306 S Fairmount St, Apt 1, Pittsburgh PA 15232, that works at Casa San Jose, a Latinx community nonprofit based out of Pittsburgh. As the Emergency Response Organizer, I respond to family separations here in Pittsburgh.

I support this proposal, however I think it could do an even better job with two modifications.

As a greenhouse gas, leaked methane absorbs the sun's heat and contributes to global warming. Climate change is a large push factor for immigration, alongside social, political, and economic

factors. Climate change manifests itself in the form of draught, heavier rainy seasons, stronger and more frequent storms, and rising sea levels for coastal communities. I work with many people who have sought refuge in the United States because of these push factors. Their families have had much lower, if not entirely wiped out seasonal yields. In order to pay for school costs and loans they had taken out to purchase farming equipment, families will send one or two family members to the United States in search of a more stable life and to send money back home. Family separation is a traumatic effect of immigration, and thus climate change.

You have the ability to take an important step in the right direction today. These protective measures are incredibly important in mitigating the release of harmful gases into the already polluted atmosphere. That being said, I ask for two improvements to be made: First, for inspections and repairs of wells producing lower amounts of oil and natural gas. Second, do not permit the reduction of frequency of inspections for oil and gas operators that do not reveal significant leaks. Uncontrolled leaks are random and without those regular inspections, a large leak could happen for a while before it is detected.

Thank you for your work on this issue and for considering the impact on immigrants that this policy could have.

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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