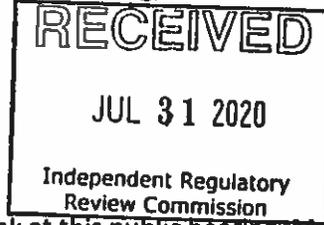


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Testimony for Control of VOC Emissions from Oil and Natural Gas Sources

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Thank you for the opportunity to speak at this public hearing. My name is Sandy Field and I have been a resident of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania for 18 years. I hold a PhD in biochemistry and run a small science and medical writing business. I also volunteer as the chair of the local chapter of the Climate Reality Project and give presentations on the urgency of taking action on the climate crisis. I am speaking to you today as a citizen who supports these regulations on methane and volatile organic compound emissions in Pennsylvania. As a major energy producing state, Pennsylvania is responsible for 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions, so changes made here can have a big impact. These regulations are an important part of the changes that Pennsylvania must make to meet its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050.

The reason this is important is that the climate crisis is no longer something that will happen in the future, many frontline communities are suffering from its effects now. My own family in California has been affected by the wildfires that have raged in the American West in recent years. The fire season in California is now more than 3 months longer than it was when I was a California Department of Forestry Firefighter in the late 1980s and the fire behavior is more extreme and deadly than anything I ever encountered. My husband's family lives in Florida where they have had to pack up the car and drive north to escape hurricanes three of the last four years and where they experience flooding and water quality issues due to sea-level rise on a regular basis. Here in Pennsylvania, we have experienced hotter summers, a higher number of extremely heavy rainfall events, insect infestations, and flooding that are all traceable to climate change and greenhouse gas pollution. These events impact important industries

in Pennsylvania including farming, hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. These industries are vital to making Pennsylvania a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

There are a number of reasons why reducing methane and VOCs right now is critical to our efforts to mitigate the worst effects of the climate crisis. First, methane is a potent greenhouse gas, responsible for 25% of global warming and 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Second, we have recently become aware that methane leaks from oil and gas industry wells are 16 times higher than previously reported. This means that methane is an even more significant pollutant than we thought. Third, these pollutants are affecting the health of Pennsylvanians directly, through their effects on air pollution, and indirectly, through acceleration of climate change, a crisis the medical community has declared a health emergency. Fourth, these emissions, through their effects on the climate crisis, harm other industries in Pennsylvania that are vital to our future and to our way of life here in the commonwealth. Finally, as a part of the global community working together to fight the climate crisis, this is simply the right thing to do and action in Pennsylvania can make a big difference. In addition, with the availability of clean, renewable, energy sources, there is absolutely no reason why we have to sacrifice the health and safety of our citizens to be a global leader in energy production. I urge DEP to act in the interest of future Pennsylvanians by enacting the strongest methane and VOC emission controls possible. Thank you.