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Independent Regulatory
Review Commission

VOC emissions Control

My name is Sarah Caspar and I am a resident of Downingtown, Pennsylvania.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak before you.

I am a scientist who worked in research for six years prior to working for US EPA Region 3.

Methane: is toxic to the liver, causes dizziness and other harms to the health. It also loves to combine with other hazardous elements such as chlorine and mercury.

In this day of the corona virus and climate crisis, where we are so vulnerable, methane emission becomes even more serious. Methane emissions carry other VOCs and particulates with it. We already know from data on cities like Chester the effects of these emissions, i.e., rise in childhood asthma which leads to other more serious illness.

Exempting low producing wells (sections 129-) does not reduce emissions. It is an economic gesture to support oil and gas developers not to protect the health of those near these facilities. Indeed the low producers are highest in methane emissions.

If Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) genuinely wishes to reduce VOCs and in particular methane a major greenhouse gas, then no exemptions. The exemptions are the major flaw in the proposal and obviate any of the more positive proposals. Thank you.