

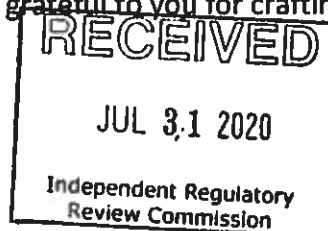
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My name is Jeanne Zang. I live in Sewickley, 12 miles down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh.

I am testifying today, not as an expert or as a representative of an organization. Rather I come here today to testify as a mother and a grandmother. I am the mother of two adult sons and the grandmother of four beautiful grandsons, aged 3 to 10. Not a day goes by that I do not worry about the kind of planet my children and grandchildren will inhabit as a result of climate change. When I read a few days ago that the temperature above the Arctic Circle hit 100.4° F for the first time since temperature records have been kept, it struck terror in my heart. It is an unmistakable sign that climate change is happening NOW, not in some distant future. My daughter-in-law has told me that my 10-year-old grandson sometimes cries at night because he is worried about the environment. The three younger ones are blissfully unaware so far, but I dread the day when they start to read about the wild fires, floods, extreme heat waves, drought, and rising sea levels that are already becoming the new normal.

So I come here today to appeal to you as fathers and mothers, grandparents, aunts and uncles. You are lucky because, while I can only take individual actions to reduce my carbon footprint, you, as officials in the Department of Environmental Protection, hold the power to make a significant contribution to helping reduce climate change.

According to the Environmental Defense Fund, methane is the second-most prevalent greenhouse gas after carbon dioxide, and methane emissions are responsible for about 25 percent of current global warming. According to many scientists, methane leaks from natural gas wells have largely erased the environmental benefits of natural gas. The good news is that controlling the release of methane is a quick way to limit climate change according to Kenneth Davis, professor of atmospheric and climate science at Penn State. Since Pennsylvania is the no. 2 state in the country in the production of natural gas, reducing our methane emissions will have a significant effect on our country's greenhouse gas emissions. The methane leaks from natural gas wells in Pennsylvania are due largely to outdated and malfunctioning equipment. So again there is good news: these leaks can be significantly reduced through the use of state-of-the-art equipment and more frequent leak inspections. I am grateful to you for crafting the



proposed rule to control VOCs, which will also have the effect of reducing methane. This gives me hope that we are making progress in the fight against climate change.

However, I come here to ask you to make the proposed rule much stronger. First and foremost, the provisions that exempt low-producing wells from the leak detection requirements must be eliminated. According to Zachary Barkley, research associate in meteorology at Penn State, "High-producing wells have a much lower leakage rate than older wells which only produce 2 to 3 percent of Pennsylvania gas, but are estimated to produce about 40 percent of the state's total emission of methane from natural gas." It makes no sense to have a rule that overlooks 40 percent of methane emissions from natural gas.

Another problem with the rule is that it does not regulate methane directly, but only indirectly through VOCs. This approach does not work with the "dry" gas found in north central and northeast Pennsylvania, but only with the "wet" gas found in southwestern PA. We need a rule that covers methane leaks in the entire state.

So in closing, I urge you to think of the enormous role you carry out as officials in the Department of Environmental Protection. We, the citizens of Pennsylvania, and indeed people around the world, are counting on you to fulfill your role as protectors of the environment. Please strengthen the draft rule on the Control of VOC Emissions for Oil and Natural Gas Sources so that it will make a real difference in fighting climate change.

Thank you.