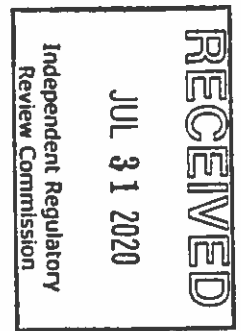


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## Testimony for Control of VOC Emissions from Oil and Natural Gas Sources

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It breaks my heart that Pennsylvanians have been suffering for 16 years at the hands of an industry that treats them like externalities in their business plan.

It breaks my heart that it has taken 16 years for these criminals to be called out for what they are.

It breaks my heart that the DEP continues to give these criminals permits.

It breaks my heart that our state government has put the needs of the industry over those of the people they serve time and time again, that a climate denier has been elevated to the most powerful seat on the House environmental committee, that our governor has worked to expand shale gas development, that he and most of our legislators have ignored the science on the myriad negative impacts of shale gas development, that our Department of Health actually put its name on a study that claimed the data on health impacts of fracking were inconclusive, that the legislature has failed to adequately fund our environmental regulators.

It breaks my heart that the DEP has failed to help the people who rely on them and not just because they've been underfunded.

It breaks my heart that the DEP has ignored complaints, that it has approved every pipeline, power plant, and processing facility, that it has issued a toothless climate plan that tells Pennsylvanians to fight climate change by checking the air pressure in their tires and tells companies to join the Center for Responsible Shale Development, that it has failed to get even the tiniest grasp on the massive legacy issue of orphaned and abandoned wells that emit methane unchecked, that it had the audacity to rescind an \$8.9 million fine against a driller without explanation and that two years later, the well was still leaking and may still be today.

It breaks my heart that so many non-profits and their funders have put so much time, so much money, so many resources, so much capital, so much blood, sweat, and tears into getting regulations on methane emissions for so many years.

It breaks my heart that the DEP's response to their efforts are rules that don't take the problem seriously, that only measure methane as an afterthought to measuring VOCs and, as a result, miss the vast majority of the methane emissions from existing sources, and that the label "existing sources" doesn't include all of those orphaned and abandoned wells.

It breaks my heart listening to impacted Pennsylvanians or those who have dedicated years fighting to protect their communities from becoming the next to be impacted say they support the rules because they've been convinced by this government and the industry that owns it that they can get nothing better than the crumbs the rules offer.

It breaks my heart thinking how things might have been different in this state if our government had taken the measured approach New York and Maryland took to stop this disaster before it started.

It breaks my heart when I think that little progress has been made in 16 years and that we don't have 16 more before we have run out the clock on climate change.

It breaks my heart that so many young people with rare cancers that only started occurring after fracking came to their communities never got 16 years.

It breaks my heart that this hearing comes at exactly the time we could be learning the lessons of COVID-19 and the grotesque murders of innocent people of color.

It breaks my heart to contemplate the lesson of the pandemic that Yale Climate Connections put so perfectly in its headline, COVID-19 is the quiz, climate change the final exam.

It breaks my heart that the injustices laid bare by the dual crises of pandemic and police brutality are perpetrated against the same communities that have been disproportionately impacted by every polluting industry that has ever been looking for a sacrifice zone when they want to set up shop and that our government has been fine with that.

It breaks my heart that the DEP has learned nothing in this moment, that our entire government has learned nothing.

My heart is broken, but my will is not. Nor are those of the people in my organization and the many others we work with across the state who have only one response to your methane rules.

Ban fracking now.