



June 27, 2023

Dear members of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee,

We, the undersigned environmental and health organizations, are writing in support of [House Bill 170](#), Representative Danielle Friel Otten's bill to increase setback distances to help protect Pennsylvanians from environmental and health risks posed by fracked gas well sites and related infrastructure.

Throughout the past decade, fracking and related infrastructure have moved dangerously close to our homes, schools, and communities.

Research shows that living within 2,500 feet of fracking infrastructure exposes residents to unsafe levels of air and water pollution linked to cancer, asthma, impacts on birth outcomes, and other serious health problems. And yet, Pennsylvania only requires a 500-foot buffer between fracking activities and nearby homes. To make matters worse, current law allows exceptions even for this minimal buffer. [A 2020 Pennsylvania Grand Jury report on fracking](#) called this distance "woefully inadequate" and recommended a 2,500 foot buffer between fracking and homes, as well as greater distances for schools.

[House Bill 170](#) will put that recommendation into practice, by requiring a buffer of at least 2,500 feet around well sites and related infrastructure, and 5,000 feet around schools and hospitals to better protect Pennsylvanians.

Every day, the Commonwealth's residents are at risk due to our outdated laws. We urge you to support [House Bill 170](#) to better protect Pennsylvanians' health and safety.

Sincerely,

Flora Cardoni, Field Director
PennEnvironment

Andrew Woomer, Advocacy Coordinator
Clean Air Council

Melissa Ostroff, Pennsylvania Policy and
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Earthworks

Katie Blume, Political & Legislative Director
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Megan McDonough, Pennsylvania State
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Vanessa Lynch, Pennsylvania State
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Lisa Graves Marcucci, PA Coordinator,
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Samantha Anthony, Program Manager
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Shannon Smith, Executive Director
FracTracker Alliance

Patrick Campbell, Executive Director
Group Against Smog & Pollution

Brendan Wissinger, Co-Lead for Political
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Andie Grey, Volunteer
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Dianne Peterson, Steering Committee
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Maren Cooke, Director
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Howard Rieger, Founder
East End Neighbors: fighting pollution

Phyllis Blumberg, lead organizer
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Joy Bergey, Environmental Justice Liaison
Chestnut Hill United Church

Cathy Lodge, Member
Frackzone Resident

