

















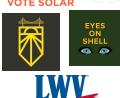
FRACTRACKER











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 <u>House Bill 170</u>, 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.

<u>House Bill 170</u> 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Every day, the Commonwealth's residents are at risk due to our outdated laws.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 <u>House Bill 170</u> 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 Field Advocate
Earthworks

Katie Blume, Political & Legislative Director

Conservation Voters of PA

Steve Hvozdovich, Pennsylvania Campaigns Director Clean Water Action

Adam Nagel, Director of Government Affairs PennFuture

Tammy Murphy, Advocacy Director Heather Hulton VanTassel. Executive Physicians for Social Responsibility Director Three Rivers Waterkeeper Pennsylvania Shannon Smith, Executive Director Megan McDonough, Pennsylvania State Director FracTracker Alliance Food & Water Watch Patrick Campbell, Executive Director Sarah Martik, Interim Executive Director Group Against Smog & Pollution Center for Coalfield Justice Brendan Wissinger, Co-Lead for Political Vanessa Lynch, Pennsylvania State Engagement Coordinator Sunrise Movement Pittsburgh Moms Clean Air Force - PA Chapter Ana Hoffman, Director of Air Quality ElowynCorby, Mid-Atlantic Regional Engagement Director Carnegie Mellon University CREATE Lab Vote Solar Ron Celentano, President Andie Grey, Volunteer PA Solar & Storage Industries Assoc. Eves On Shell Liz Robinson, Executive director Dianne Peterson, Steering Committee Philadelphia Solar Energy Association member **PASUP** Tom Pike, Environmental Policy Advocate Protect PT Glenn Olcerst, General Counsel Rail Pollution Protection Pittsburgh Mel Packer, Coordinating committee Marcellus Protest Maren Cooke, Director **Putting Down Roots** Lisa Graves Marcucci, PA Coordinator, Community Outreach Howard Rieger, Founder **Environmental Integrity Project** East End Neighbors: fighting pollution Ashley Funk, Executive Director Phyllis Blumberg, lead organizer PA- Earth Alliance Mountain Watershed Association Debra Smit, Communications Director Joy Bergey, Environmental Justice Liaison Chestnut Hill United Church **Breathe Project**

Cathy Lodge, Member

Frackzone Resident

Samantha Anthony, Program Manager

League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania