



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Every day, the Commonwealth’s residents are at risk due to our outdated laws.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

Katie Blume, Political & Legislative Director
Conservation Voters of PA

Andrew Woomer, Advocacy Coordinator
Clean Air Council

Steve Hvozdovich, Pennsylvania
Campaigns Director
Clean Water Action

Melissa Ostroff, Pennsylvania Policy and
Field Advocate
Earthworks

Adam Nagel, Director of Government Affairs
PennFuture

Tammy Murphy, Advocacy Director
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Pennsylvania

Megan McDonough, Pennsylvania State
Director
Food & Water Watch

Sarah Martik, Interim Executive Director
Center for Coalfield Justice

Vanessa Lynch, Pennsylvania State
Coordinator
Moms Clean Air Force - PA Chapter

Elwyn Corby, Mid-Atlantic Regional
Director
Vote Solar

Ron Celentano, President
PA Solar & Storage Industries Assoc.

Liz Robinson, Executive director
Philadelphia Solar Energy Association

Tom Pike, Environmental Policy Advocate
Protect PT

Mel Packer, Coordinating committee
Marcellus Protest

Lisa Graves Marcucci, PA Coordinator,
Community Outreach
Environmental Integrity Project

Ashley Funk, Executive Director
Mountain Watershed Association

Debra Smit, Communications Director
Breathe Project

Samantha Anthony, Program Manager
League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania

Heather Hulton VanTassel, Executive
Director
Three Rivers Waterkeeper

Shannon Smith, Executive Director
FracTracker Alliance

Patrick Campbell, Executive Director
Group Against Smog & Pollution

Brendan Wissinger, Co-Lead for Political
Engagement
Sunrise Movement Pittsburgh

Ana Hoffman, Director of Air Quality
Engagement
Carnegie Mellon University CREATE Lab

Andie Grey, Volunteer
Eyes On Shell

Dianne Peterson, Steering Committee
member
PASUP

Glenn Olcerst, General Counsel
Rail Pollution Protection Pittsburgh

Maren Cooke, Director
Putting Down Roots

Howard Rieger, Founder
East End Neighbors: fighting pollution

Phyllis Blumberg, lead organizer
PA- Earth Alliance

Joy Bergey, Environmental Justice Liaison
Chestnut Hill United Church

Cathy Lodge, Member
Frackzone Resident

