

March 17th, 2021

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Request for Action

Dear Governor Wolf,

Thank you for your recent support of the Delaware River Basin Commission's efforts to protect our natural resources and drinking water supply. Please consider this correspondence as a formal request for your immediate action in response to the ongoing harm to the public's health and well-being due to hydraulic fracturing.

On March 4, 2021, the Environmental Health News [published](#) the results of an illuminating investigation that links hydraulic fracturing operations and exposure to toxic chemicals. This pilot study included five families residing in Westmoreland and Washington Counties, all living within miles of multiple hydraulic fracturing wells, pipelines, and compressor stations. Each family was monitored over 9 weeks through scientific data collection of urine, air, and water sampling. These samples were then analyzed using the best available technology to look for forty of the most common chemicals found in the emissions from fracking sites.

The initial outcomes are alarming in terms of the effects on the long-term health and safety of these residents. Benzene and butylcyclohexane were among the chemicals found in both the drinking water and air samples. Breakdown products for the chemicals ethylbenzene, styrene, and toluene were found in the bodies of children living near

fracking operations. For example, a nine-year-old participant showed levels of these harmful chemicals up to ***ninety-one times*** as high as the average American and substantially higher than levels seen in the average adult cigarette smoker. The chemicals identified in the air, water, and urine samples are linked to a wide range of serious health issues, such as increased risks for various types of cancer, skin and respiratory irritation, permanent organ damage, and irreversible neurological impacts.

This study adds to an ever-growing mountain of evidence comprising more than ten years of epidemiological studies from across the United States that demonstrate a connection between a person's proximity to shale gas development and a host of negative human health conditions, significant ecological impacts, and dire economic projections for the affected individuals.

The research in this latest pilot study utilized a methodology that can be replicated and expanded upon. We urge you to use the state's dedicated funds to thoroughly study the health impacts of fracking implementing this biomonitoring approach. Further, we are requesting that these taxpayer-funded, scientific studies include radioactivity exposure evaluations and a source exposure analysis so that the specific cause of harm is identified.

It is our duty as elected leaders to uphold the Pennsylvania Constitution and protect the health and safety of the people of this Commonwealth. We ***know*** that exposure to the toxic chemicals used in fracking operations can lead to long-term negative health outcomes; we ***know*** that families living near fracking operations can no longer drink their well water and are at risk both inside and outside their homes from the very air they breathe. We fail to uphold our oaths if we fail to act upon this knowledge.

Last month, the Commissioners of the Delaware River Basin Commission, including you, acted to protect that unique region and the millions of people who depend upon the water from the basin by voting to ban hydraulic fracturing within the Delaware River Basin. That decision begs the question: Does this administration believe it has adequately protected Pennsylvanians from the harms of fracking? Does this administration honestly believe that fracking is safe for our families? The people of Pennsylvania deserve answers to these questions.

As the protectors of our Commonwealth, we must work together to protect the people of Pennsylvania and ensure their health, safety, and constitutional rights to clean air and

water. We urge you to take immediate action on the requests listed in this letter. We look forward to working with your administration to protect Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Innamorato".

Representative Sara Innamorato

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Muth".

Senator Katie Muth

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danielle Friel Otten".

Representative Danielle Friel-Otten

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Kearney".

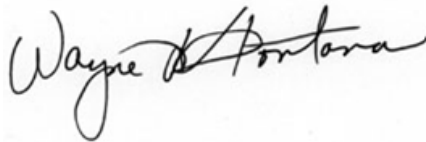
Senator Tim Kearney

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Senator Nikil Saval

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Cappelletti".

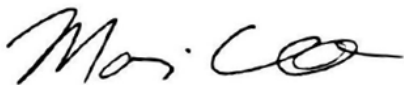
Senator Amanda Cappelletti

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Senator Wayne Fontana

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Santasario".

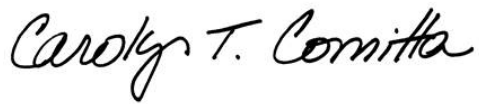
Senator Steve Santasario

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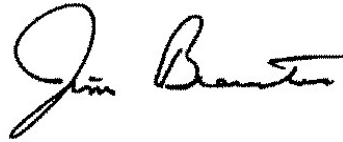
Senator Maria Collett

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Senator Christine Tartaglione



Senator Carolyn Comitta



Senator Jim Brewster



Senator Wayne Fontana



Senator Vincent Hughes



Senator Lindsey Williams



Representative Leanne Krueger



Representative Carol Hill-Evans



Representative Pete Schweyer



Representative Perry Warren



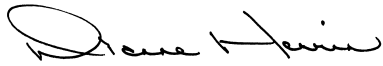
Representative Tim Briggs



Representative Mike Sturla



Representative Ben Sanchez



Representative Dianne Herrin



Representative Joe Hohenstein



Representative Nancy Guent



Representative Melissa Shusterman



Representative Napoleon Nelson



Representative Rick Krajewski



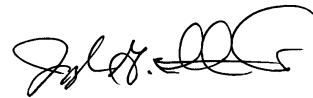
Representative Summer Lee



Representative Elizabeth Fiedler



Representative Greg Vitali



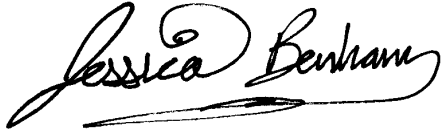
Representative Joe Webster



Representative Mary Issacson



Representative Christopher Rabb

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jessica Benham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

Representative Jessica Benham

Cc: Alison Beam, Acting Secretary, Department of Health

Cc: Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, Department of Environmental Protections