



EMBARGOED UNTIL 10 AM 12/ 18/ 23

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**State-Wide Environmental Advocacy Day of Action Calls on Pa. Gov. Josh Shapiro to
Take Action Now to Address Fracking Industry Concerns**

More than 10 environmental organizations will come together for two press conferences in Pittsburgh and Harrisburg TODAY to ask Gov. Josh Shapiro to immediately establish safe distances from fracking operations to protect the health of people and the environment and reconsider his stated plans to work collaboratively with the fracking industry.

**Main Rotunda Steps, Harrisburg State Capitol
10:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 18, 2023**

**SWPA DEP Office (outside or lobby) - 400 Waterfront Dr., Pittsburgh
11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 18, 2023**

Throughout the past decade, fracking operations have moved dangerously close to homes, schools and densely populated communities. Numerous studies have shown that living near fracking operations exposes residents to unsafe levels of pollution linked to cancer, asthma, impacts on birth outcomes and other serious health problems. Advocates are also concerned with Gov. Shapiro's stated decision to work with fracking companies like CNX when he should be protecting the health and safety of residents as he promised to do as state Attorney General.

Multiple groups have released statements and/or petitions calling on Gov. Shapiro to reconsider his office's partnership with the gas company CNX in recent weeks. Clean Air Council will deliver a petition to the Governor's office in Harrisburg. About the same time, environmental advocates in SWPA will hold a press conference at the DEP Offices.

Speakers at the DEP SWPA Offices will Include:

- Shannon Smith, FracTracker Alliance (lead)
- Gillian Graber, Protect PT
- Matt Kelso, FracTracker Alliance
- Alison Steel, EHP
- Laura Dagley, PSR-PA
- Jay Walker, Clean Air Council

Speakers at the Rotunda in Harrisburg will include:

Lois Bowers-Bjornson, Clean Air Council, Washington County resident
Jodi Borello, Center for Coalfield Justice
Tammy Murphy, Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania

Groups are raising their voices collectively to amplify their concerns and ask Gov. Shapiro to use his power to enact "protective buffers" of at least 2,500 feet for oil and gas infrastructure. Several letters emphasize the need to expand setback distances between fracking infrastructure and homes, schools, hospitals and other sensitive sites, beyond the existing 500 feet requirement.

The following groups have released statements and/or petitions on this subject. More than 400 citizens across the state and 25 organizations have signed on: (letters are linked): [FracTracker Alliance](#), [Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania](#), [Environmental Health Project](#), [Center for Coalfield Justice](#), [Better Path Coalition](#) and Clean Air Council.

"There are now hundreds of solid scientific, medical and government studies showing that unconventional gas extraction pollutes and degrades the environment and makes people living nearby sick," said Dr. Ned Ketyer of Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania and a retired pediatrician. "It's also undeniable and unsurprising that in Pennsylvania, the closer one lives to fracking, the higher the risk of suffering serious health damage."

(NOTE: House Bill 170 will not be a focus of this event.)