My name is Robert Longnecker and I live in Bradford, Pennsylvania. I would like to thank this board for giving me the opportunity to speak.

I am a Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War and a retired history and economics teacher with a great interest in the Pennsylvania oil industry. My interest dates back to the days when I was a young boy and accompanied my uncle to work. As a teacher, I had my students read the book THE PRIZE by Daniel Yergin. This book stressed the important role that oil played in the industrialization of the United States, our growth as a world power, and our economic problems partly caused by and exacerbated by our declining production and increased reliance on foreign sources.

When I retired from teaching, I worked for five years running an oil lease for a small independent producer. The 12 wells on the lease each produced less than a barrel a day.

I became acquainted with many of the Bradford area producers at their monthly breakfasts and I learned about producing oil from them and by on the job training. I enjoyed working outside and fixing things. I can truly understand how oil is not only a livelihood but also a way of life for these producers. It is their lifeblood.

The current proposal to put the conventional shallow well oil industry under the same regulations imposed on the shale gas industry, lacks sound judgment and common sense. Why should a 150 year old oil industry with lower profit margins, smaller well sites, smaller environmental impacts, and rich historic and cultural traditions, be subjected to the same regulations as a 10 year old industry?

Furthermore, will the additional costs imposed on the small producer by these burdensome regulations yield greater economic benefits than the additional economic costs of these regulations? No. The reverse would likely be true. I submit that a reverse economic multiplier would occur. Higher economic costs of compliance would result in declining production and drilling, plugged wells, abandoned leases, higher unemployment, decreased business activity, and reduced refinery operating capacity.

Our local and national economies already have enough problems caused in part by over regulation. Please do not adopt the “one size fits all” approach by imposing these regulations on the conventional producer. With all due respect, please think before you act. Thank you.

Robert D. Longnecker
69 Gregory Avenue
Bradford, PA  16701