Testimony by Patricia L. Miller

Environmental Quality Board Hearing

Warren, PA

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Good evening. My name is Patricia Miller and I live at 560 Route 16 South in Olean New York. I majored in Chemistry in college and moved to the area when I married. I had never even seen an oil well until I traveled to St. Bonaventure University for my initial visit and I remember thinking how cool it was to find that there were oil wells so close to where I grew up in Horseheads, NY. I ended up marrying a fourth generation oil producer. After graduation one of my first jobs was in a laboratory analyzing produced water from secondary recovery wells. So here was someone who wasn’t even from the area reaping the financial benefits of a viable industry for both myself and my spouse. Imagine the ties the people who have lived their whole lives in the Pennsylvania Oil Region, which includes southwestern New York, have to this industry. Generations of families have benefitted by the presence of this industry, as has, directly or indirectly, almost everyone living in the Pennsylvania shallow oil field.

My husband has worked long backbreaking hours on his oil properties (with no benefits because he is self-employed) because he loves what he does and is proud to be producing a valuable resource, and there have been some tough times. But as hard as the physical work has been it is the regulatory burden that has broken his spirit. And we live in constant fear of not knowing what will be coming next. His one-man operation does not have a tiny fraction of the impact that the deep non-conventional wells do. Each well averages only gallons of oil per day so the economics to comply with regulations is finite. Please allow him and others like him to continue to do what they love to do.

We live in the country and appreciate more than most city dwelling bureaucrats ever could the beauty of the land we live on. We as well as our oil producing friends would do nothing to harm the environment because that is where we live and work and play and we respect the land that has in many cases been in the family for generations. Putting a 150 year old industry out of business by promulgating onerous and unnecessary regulations would have devastating effects on the economy and the people of this entire area.

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