I am Molly Popiel Lindahl. I live in Pennsylvania and am here today to lend support to the Conventional Oil Producers. My connection to this industry began with my maternal great-grandfather who was an employee of South Penn Oil in West Virginia at the turn of the 20th century. My paternal grandfather worked for Struthers Wells not long after immigrating to the United States. In 1906 he married my grandmother and moved to Bradford to raise a family. He first made his living as a butcher, but most of his working life was spent recycling bull rope, collecting it with horse and wagon, then selling it to Gold Medal Flour where it was used to make flour sacks. His sons, my father and uncle, evolved the business into an oil field rigging and hauling business. My father and uncle were joined by my brother after he completed high school. This oil-affiliated business supported our families comfortably for 55 years, all fourteen of us.

My personal affiliation spans a nearly 30-year period working for the Kendall brand name as a secretary, lab technician, and purchaser of laboratory supplies. For the past ten years I’ve been an employee and volunteer for the Bradford Landmark Society, a non-profit historical organization, becoming more aware of the importance of Pennsylvania-grade crude oil and the role of the conventional oil producers. Newspaper articles, books, and files, as well as face-to-face contact with conventional producers confirm this.

It’s been my honor to become acquainted with these producers, witness the respect they have for the area in which they work and live, and to know first-hand the good they do for the community. They work long hours to supply local refineries with high-quality crude. They shop local stores. They support non-profit organizations. They attend local churches. They are family, friends, and neighbors.

Their production is on a much smaller scale than non-conventional producers. We’re talking gallons vs. barrels. That’s a significant difference. Conventional well sites have a smaller footprint and far less impact on the environment than non-conventional well sites, several hundred square feet vs. 5-acre tracts. Imposing one-size-fits-all regulations on small producers would hinder them at best, but drive them out of business at worst. These proposed regulations are akin to being punished for a crime not committed.

Don’t fool yourself. The loss of these conventional producers will affect you. Where will the refineries obtain the high-quality crude they need? The refineries pay good wages, but if there’s no crude, there’s no refinery throughput, and there go the jobs. Stores, restaurants, local businesses will all suffer. Our local economy already has enough challenges. Please do not impose these regulations on conventional producers.

Thank you for allowing me the time to speak.