

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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IN RE: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE LISTENING SESSION

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BEFORE: CARL JONES, JR., ESQUIRE, DIRECTOR
PATRICK MCDONNELL, SECRETARY
JOHN BRAKEALL, REGIONAL COORDINATOR

HEARING: Tuesday, May 23, 2017
5:06 p.m.

LOCATION: Chester City Hall
One East Fourth Street, 2nd Floor
Chester, PA 19013

ORIGINAL

WITNESSES: Dr. Roberta Winters, Len Wen, Alice
Wright, Reverend Dr. Horace Strand, John
Butler, Sue Edwards, Drew McGinty, Tom
McKeon, Aurora Winslade, Mark Wallace,
Portia West, Peter Osaba, Melissa Tier,
Christine Adova, Dr. Marva King, Carol
Armstrong, John Shelton, Jocelyn
Basamanti, Catherine Flag, John Scott,
Thurman Brendlinger, Sarah Casson,
Livia Smith

Reporter: Nicole B. Slick

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- ALSO PRESENT:
M.J. Bennett
Ms. Shelton
Kelly Woodland
Laura McKinley
Logan Williams
James Brunswick
James Houtsel
Jean Davis
Sierra Williams
Rick Kauffman
Jean Straton
Vanessa Dressick
Louis Grand
Saiga Elliott

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P R O C E E D I N G S

DIRECTOR JONES: Welcome to our eighth listening session. Before we begin with the program, I'll sort of give you an overview of how things will work tonight.

So after I sort of give you framework, we'll have open remarks from our secretary. I will then come back and give a brief presentation of the Office of Environmental Justice, the history of Environmental Justice and sort of why we're here today, which will sort of act as a frame for how this conversation continues.

At the conclusion of that presentation, we'll then have remarks from you all and your testimony. At the conclusion of us receiving all of the testimony from you, we will then put up another slide that will have more contact information for us. We will constantly reference this brochure which has all our contact information. It's from our website.

We hope this to be the beginning of the conversation with you all. So without further ado, I'll turn over to Secretary McDonnell.

SECRETARY MCDONNELL: Good evening. I

1 am Patrick McDonnell, Secretary of the Pennsylvania
2 Department of Environmental Protection.

3 The couple things that I want to say
4 first, thank you. Thank you for your getting here
5 tonight. Thank you for your interest. Thank you
6 for your comments you're about to provide us. It's
7 critically important for us.

8 One of the things I'd like to say
9 about my job in the Department is, you know, I sit
10 behind a desk in Harrisburg and I need to get out
11 and I need to be out interacting with people and
12 doing more of that kind of thing. So I want to
13 thank you for the interaction in advance.

14 As Carl said, expect this to be the
15 beginning, not end, of a process. Not the end of
16 the conversation in terms of the interaction. It's
17 been over ten years since we first looked at the
18 Environmental Justice policies, put them together,
19 and - and really hadn't revisited them in a serious
20 way since.

21 This is the first time we're doing
22 that. I don't want that process to get to lie
23 dormant for that long again. So expect us to be in
24 here to - as we accept the comments through these
25 listening sessions and sometimes through the website

1 and start reflecting that back in the policies, then
2 we'll be back out to continue the conversation on an
3 ongoing basis.

4 So I'll stop there, because part of
5 this evening is to hear from all of you. And I'll
6 turn it back over to Carl. Thank you.

7 DIRECTOR JONES: Thank you, Mr.
8 McDonnell.

9 You guys can turn your attention to
10 your right. There is a brief PowerPoint
11 presentation that will sort of lay out sort of the
12 history of why we're here and some of the framing
13 questions that we submitted out to the public before
14 we began our listening tour.

15 Firstly, what is Environmental
16 Justice? Environmental Justice is not a new
17 concept. It is a concept that has existed for many
18 decades, sort of pulling its roots of origin to the
19 civil rights movement of the '60s and the
20 continuation of that through environmental rights
21 movements of the '70s.

22 However, it was in 1991 that we got
23 the sort of core 17 principles that outline about
24 how we frame Environmental Justice today. If you
25 look on our website, a link to those 17 principles

1 is available.

2 Here in the Commonwealth, our history
3 with environmental justice is about 20 - 20 some odd
4 years old. The story began in the late 1990s with
5 the sort of internal creation of a working group.
6 This sort of determined the need for environmental
7 justice in the Commonwealth. That was as a result
8 of many of the community issues that were faced here
9 in Chester.

10 In 2001, we had the creation of a
11 document that sort of set out the framework for the
12 Office of Environmental Justice. In 2004, we had
13 what we called our Environmental Justice Oath
14 Participation Policy. That policy basically guides
15 the way the Department has defined and looked at
16 environmental justice so far. In Pennsylvania,
17 according to the current definition, we have about
18 851 communities that fall into the definition of
19 environmental justice communities.

20 The purpose of this listening session
21 - or one of the purposes is to determine how we are
22 doing those things and are we reaching all the right
23 communities with our current definition.

24 The Office of Environmental Justice
25 has three main goals, and I will only sort of touch

1 on the bullet points. Minimizing adverse
2 environmental impacts, empowering communities and
3 fostering economic opportunities. You can find this
4 brochure on our website. There is more information
5 about each one of those bullet point so you can get
6 a little bit of a further breakdown of how we
7 attempt to achieve those three goals.

8 Framing questions. When we began our
9 listening tour, we wanted to make sure that we had a
10 sort of frame for receiving testimony from all of
11 you. These suggest a guide for some of the areas
12 that we hope provide some sort of guidance about the
13 sort of topics that we have been wrestling with
14 internally and are looking for feedback from you all
15 with how we handle environmental justice currently
16 in the Commonwealth.

17 A few sort of housekeeping rules.
18 Bathrooms are not on this floor. So if you go down
19 the stairs and go past where you first came in, turn
20 right, the restrooms are located there.

21 The structure of receiving testimony.
22 There will be three minutes per testimony. After we
23 have heard from everyone, if there is remaining
24 time, there will be an additional three minutes for
25 people to come back up and continue to speak.

1 The purpose of this is so that we can
2 hear from as many people as possible. So there may
3 be a time when you ask a question and you may not
4 get a response back from us. Please don't get - our
5 purpose is here for us to listen and we're trying to
6 hear as much from you as possible. You have not not
7 been heard. We've heard you and we'll continue to
8 follow up with you.

9 In case of a need for emergency
10 evacuations, again, down the stairs, both exits are
11 directly behind you. And we look forward to
12 receiving testimony from you.

13 At the end of our testimony portion,
14 I'll come back up. I will put up this slide again,
15 which is also the last page of our brochure. We
16 have all of our contact information.

17 One thing that we want to continue to
18 stress is that this is the beginning of a dialogue.
19 We are here to get facts and information from you so
20 that when we come back, we can have a real
21 conversation.

22 So without further ado, I will turn it
23 over to you. John Brakeall will be reading the list
24 of names. If you would like to give testimony,
25 please let him know. If you do not, please let him

1 know of that as well. But we will be calling out
2 the names on the list. Thanks.

3 MR. BRAKEALL: First up is Kasia
4 Printer? Okay.

5 Roberta Winters?

6 DR. WINTERS: Thank you for this
7 opportunity. My name is Roberta Winters. I live at
8 326 Williams Road in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

9 Now is the time for local agencies and
10 state agencies to act by taking extraordinary
11 interventions to compensate residents for
12 extraordinary sacrifices that have been made and
13 continue to be made by those contributions. How?
14 Here are a few suggestions.

15 Promote ongoing listening, education
16 and action. Please work with churches and schools
17 to educate young and old about how to care for their
18 environment and how to mitigate risks.

19 Hold regularly scheduled meetings with
20 residents and operators of facilities to address
21 questions and improve conditions. Steer ahead
22 visiting sessions to provide hope and meaning to the
23 future. Facilitate job training for residents to
24 work in local facilities. And this is done by
25 acting on input and not just forwarding lip service.

1 Second, balance Environmental Justice
2 by helping those who are harmed. Please promote
3 early childhood intervention and enable these
4 parents to give youngsters that needed head start.
5 Support meaningful programs and activities that
6 provide productive outlets and opportunities for
7 youth from morning to night.

8 Sponsor adult activity centers to
9 prompt meaningful social interaction and community
10 projects from community gardens to sports clubs.
11 Provide quality public health facilities for
12 residents from prenatal care to the grave. And
13 develop private public partnerships to support
14 public education, the health department,
15 neighborhood parks and recreational facilities and
16 other necessities in this region to improve the
17 quality of life.

18 And finally, use your regulatory power
19 to be part of the solution and not part of the
20 problem. Please gather data through additional
21 monitoring of air, land and water. Mandate the
22 industry to assess available practices to reduce
23 pollution and promote emergency preparedness.

24 Prohibit the issuance of permits or
25 anything that will do further harm. Avoid

1 grandfathering of facilities to operate under
2 outdated rules and regulations. Require
3 accountability for cleanup of past, present and
4 future sites before permitting new or renewing
5 operations.

6 Be proactive in providing strategies
7 to cope with rising waters in this area, compliments
8 of climate change. And conduct epidemiological
9 studies to gather data and help quantify impacts.

10 It's easy to see problems with
11 environmental justice in areas where poverty and
12 minority populations exist. Please do your best to
13 act to make a difference. As Ben Franklin so wisely
14 said, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of
15 cure.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. BRAKEALL: Thank you.

18 MR. WEN: Thank you very much for
19 allowing us to speak today. My name is Len Wen.
20 I'm a student at Windham Law School in Bryn Mawr,
21 Pennsylvania.

22 I want to address this in relation to
23 law, which includes a law in its creation. Title XI
24 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The courts are the
25 forums to see the results in this law protecting and

1 enforcing in a fair and rational manner.

2 Twenty (20) years ago, Chester
3 residents sued the DEP for permitting waste
4 processing facilities to operate in their community.
5 And the case was called CRCQL versus Seif, 132 F.3d
6 925. And that was in 1997.

7 This case was dismissed by the US
8 Supreme Court on the basis of mootness - sorry - on
9 the mootness but not the merits. Before dismissal,
10 they are actually found in favor of the residents
11 because discrimination under the DEP at that time
12 was a violation of Section 602 of Title VI within
13 the Civil Rights Act.

14 And the EPA at that time, and even
15 now, has regulations that states a recipient shall
16 not use a criteria or methods of administering its
17 program which have the effects of subjugating
18 individuals to discrimination due to their race,
19 color, nationality, with respect to individuals of
20 particular race, color, national origin or sex. And
21 that's 40 CFR Section 7.35 (b).

22 Now, the DEP is still funded by the
23 EPA. And similar facts could be heard again in five
24 courts in an effort to get a favorable outcome for
25 the citizens if they choose to bring it to court

1 again. How would the DEP fair in that circumstance?

2 Because it's an accident, have
3 violated the information rule. And I have further
4 questions to kind of think about a little more. Is
5 the decision to litigate DEP abilities, how it
6 complies with certain standards. In other areas
7 other than Chester, such as Marcus Hook.
8 Information on the health and safety of the
9 community in Chester. And with the examination of
10 the children indicated the level of toxins had a
11 causal relationship to the harmful educational ---
12 and fundamental to ensuring the rights of the law of
13 our land and our Commonwealth. It's still unjust.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. BRAKEALL: Thank you.

16 Alice Wright?

17 MS. WRIGHT: Good evening, everyone.

18 MR. BRAKEALL: Good evening.

19 MS. WRIGHT: First and foremost, I
20 have to tell you, I signed the wrong paper. But at
21 any rate, as a former Department of Environmental
22 Protection employee, Office of Environmental
23 Advocate, I would like to see a relationship in all
24 the municipalities and towns with the zoning board
25 and DEP. When zoning boards are making decisions

1 about facilities in a zone named environmental
2 justice communities, they have some kind of a
3 understanding of environmental justice and what that
4 industry's effect can have on that community. Thank
5 you.

6 MR. BRAKEALL: Reverend Strand?

7 DR. STRAND: I'd like to thank the
8 secretary and Carl for bringing this listening
9 session to our city. As a member of the
10 environmental board to the secretary of the EPA ---
11 I will complete my term in June. I was the Vice
12 Chairman of the Department of Environmental
13 Protection EP Board in Harrisburg where we bring to
14 the forefront environmental justice issues.

15 I found myself in a position that I
16 have not been in for many years. And that is to
17 thank the Department for the sensitivity, your hard
18 work to help a community that worked very hard to
19 help itself, protect its own interest, accomplishing
20 many things that they're accomplishing.

21 Many of you know that this community
22 was the community that propelled EJ forward in the
23 state and even some parts of the country. And we're
24 known throughout the world for the work that we've
25 done environmentally. But this is an example of

1 what can happen if people come together and work
2 well.

3 And Chester Environmental Partnership
4 is a committee that has acted on a regular basis.
5 We meet monthly. And on that committee, we have
6 government officials, we have academia, we have the
7 Department of Environmental Protection, the EPA,
8 industry and all concerned citizens coming together
9 on a daily basis and addressing issues that affect
10 our environment. Monitoring industry's performance
11 on a daily basis. And what we have found is that
12 the industry did not do well, that we do have the
13 support of the Department and they will run
14 effectively so that they can address and correct
15 their behavior.

16 Case in point, the EP Corporation
17 which is now in trying to bring out of --- 3
18 billion, 1.7 million fine that the DEP has imposed
19 upon them because of their flagrant violations of
20 our airways and refusal to follow the guidelines
21 that are established to protect the health and
22 welfare of our community.

23 So we applaud the DEP for taking the
24 stand it took and making a message to anyone that
25 wants to operate within our borders incorrectly that

1 it's not going to be tolerated. I want to thank
2 everybody that has a part to play in helping make
3 the DEP a successful organization where we are
4 working hard --- we still have problems in this
5 community, we got to solve them. But we do have a
6 mechanism in place that is government that is a
7 mayor and council that has supported us
8 wholeheartedly.

9 And so I want to say to you, Mr.
10 Secretary, that although you're looking for
11 problems, you're coming to a community that is
12 perfect example of what can happen when people work
13 together. I want to thank you.

14 MR. BRAKEALL: John Butler?

15 MR. BUTLER: Good evening. John
16 Butler, 208 Laurel Lane in Broomall, PA. I live in
17 a community basically upstream from the EJ
18 communities. I've tried to foster responsible
19 development in our community so that we don't
20 increase the flooding. It has not worked.

21 I'd say we'd probably make floods for
22 Darby Creek. There's major development proposed
23 there. And I tried to get support from Eastwick and
24 Darby to help fight because we need that watershed
25 to protect the area from flooding. And we didn't

1 get results there. And I think DEP should maybe
2 look at stormwater regulations, especially upstream.

3 And PennDOT, they're going to do like
4 a \$3 million change - an interchange. They're
5 saying any storm water management will be only at
6 25-year level. So that's going to increase flooding
7 in Darby Creek.

8 And the other - the other thing, there
9 is a - TIP, which is Transportation Improvement
10 Program, that is on the agenda and is scheduled for
11 2019 for Chester. And that should be - I don't know
12 how you'd move that up to increase lighting on the
13 streets here and put cameras.

14 And I think the protection of the
15 residents is - is a primary thing, too. So I don't
16 know how it all fits in with the DEP, but the groups
17 should be working together. And if we could move
18 that up it would help the citizens in this area.

19 MR. BRAKEALL: Sue Edwards?

20 MS. EDWARDS: Hi. My name is Sue
21 Edwards. I live at 32 College Avenue in Swarthmore,
22 just up the road.

23 As a volunteer for the Sierra Club,
24 the southeastern Pennsylvania group of the Sierra
25 Club, I want to say that the Sierra Club is taking

1 it very seriously the need for environmental
2 organizations to get involved with and represent
3 every part of the community and lift up the
4 environmental justice issues where they occur.

5 As I'm sure you're aware,
6 environmental justice is not just a matter of
7 fairness and not just a matter of race or economic
8 status. It is a matter of health, and in some
9 cases, life or death.

10 Therefore, it is essentially key to
11 avail yourselves of up-to-date research of health
12 statistics and counties that post census tracts even
13 down to --- they're including industries and also
14 where such industries already exist.

15 The DEP needs to attend to legacy
16 pollution problems, not just new facilities, and to
17 cumulative impacts and not just the impact of one
18 additional request for a permit.

19 Pollution doesn't stay in artificial
20 boundaries. Just for example, not just southeastern
21 Pennsylvania, but also Connecticut and Delaware are
22 impacted by the ongoing pollution from the Brunner
23 Island coal-fired power plant in York County, but it
24 has not --- it has not been required to install
25 selective catalytic reduction technology to reduce

1 its toxic pollution.

2 This pollution is being wafted by the
3 prevailing winds right towards this part of the
4 country and leaving a telltale trail passing on ugly
5 respiratory diseases. The effects not just - this
6 affects not just the EJ areas, but all communities
7 in its path.

8 I believe that in addition to - in
9 addition to the 20 percent poverty and/or 30 percent
10 minority rule defining an EJ area, there should be a
11 measure of disproportionate burden. It should not
12 simply suggest not to continue to have waste and
13 trash facilities bringing in refuse in piles inside
14 the city itself. Instead, the DEP's EJ session
15 leads us to see that jobs are generated in the new
16 energy economy that is essential to protect not just
17 our area, but our country and the climate. Seeing
18 renewable energy generation, particularly solar and
19 wind power.

20 By this direction, the DEP would be
21 seeking not just to prevent entities from polluting,
22 but also to speak with members for a green future.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. BRAKEALL: Thank you.

25 Drew McGinty?

1 MR. MCGINTY: Hi. Good evening,
2 everyone. And thank you for letting me speak.

3 Just briefly, I want to thank you for
4 all the new work you're doing and service now more
5 than ever, with the Trump Administration's and Mr.
6 Trump's allies and supports in congress and their
7 attack on the EPA. The work you're doing now is
8 more valuable and important and needed than ever
9 before. So thank you again. Keep up the great
10 work. And thank you again for your service.

11 MR. BRAKEALL: Tom McKeon?

12 MR. MCKEON: Well, first, thank you,
13 DEP, for holding these listening sessions.

14 My name is Tom McKeon. I come from
15 Philadelphia. And my testimony is more a comment.
16 I'm a new liaison from the Community Outreach and
17 Engagement Core at the Center of Excellence in
18 Environmental Toxicology at the University of
19 Pennsylvania.

20 And I would just present myself as
21 resource to the community. The Center has been
22 working with --- and I'm new to this position. And
23 I'm just here to participate in the listening
24 session so I can highlight that there will be a town
25 hall meeting at the Faith Temple Holy Church on

1 Monday June 19th in Chester.

2 And Linda Birnbaum, the Director of
3 the National Institute of Environmental Health
4 Sciences will be coming and addressing the issues we
5 have. So if you're interested in learning more
6 about this and if you want to talk to me about any
7 ways that the University of Pennsylvania and see if
8 you can be connected those vast resources, I'd be
9 happy to act as that liaison.

10 So again, my name is Tom McKeon and
11 thank you for allowing me to speak.

12 MR. BRAKEALL: Thank you.

13 Ms. Bennett?

14 MS. BENNETT: I didn't have anything.

15 MR. BRAKEALL: Okay.

16 MS. BENNETT: Thank you.

17 MR. BRAKEALL: Ms. Shelton?

18 MS. SHELTON: Oh, thank you. No, I
19 wasn't intending to speak. But I'm very interested
20 because this is much needed.

21 MR. BRAKEALL: Thank you.

22 Kelly Woodland? Laura McKinley?

23 MS. MCKINLEY: I'll pass.

24 MR. BRAKEALL: Okay.

25 I apologize if I'm mispronouncing your

1 name.

2 Aurora Winslade?

3 MS. WINSLADE: Good evening. I work
4 as the Director of Sustainability at Swarthmore
5 College. I am relatively new to this area. I've
6 only been here a little more than a year. So I'm
7 mostly here to learn.

8 But I did want to thank you for being
9 here. And what Roberta said earlier about the need
10 for a vision of where we're going. In my previous
11 work in Hawaii, there was a public-private
12 partnership that got together, public sector and
13 private sector, colleges and universities around the
14 shared vision of goals and also the metrics that we
15 can use to reach our goals.

16 And I'd be very interested in how
17 Swarthmore College and our students and faculty
18 could contribute and support this work. And I'd
19 really like to see this done.

20 MR. BRAKEALL: Logan Williams?

21 DR. WALLACE: It might be Mark. Could
22 that be it? Mark?

23 MR. BRAKEALL: No, I think I have you
24 next, though.

25 DR. WALLACE: Mark Wallace?

1 MR. BRAKEALL: Yeah.

2 DR. WALLACE: All I heard was
3 Williams.

4 MR. BRAKEALL: Okay.
5 Next is James Brunswick?

6 DR. WALLACE: So can I speak?

7 MR. BRAKEALL: Sure.

8 DR. WALLACE: Good afternoon. My name
9 is Mark Wallace. I'm a professor of religion and
10 environmental studies at nearby Swarthmore College.
11 I want to thank the members of the DEP staff for
12 being here, for the secretary. This is an
13 extraordinary occasion for you to be here and to
14 listen to the community members about our concerns
15 about the environment. So thank you.

16 As a professor at Swarthmore College,
17 I live just a couple of miles north from here. I've
18 been in this area now for 25 years. It is the case
19 that Chester City has suffered incredible
20 disproportionate environmental impacts over the
21 years. It has a giant trash facility that dumps
22 heavy metals and particulate matter into the
23 surrounding area.

24 PCBs are all through Delaware River.
25 Lead paint is in people's homes. Chester, as we

1 know, suffers from disproportionate impacts,
2 particularly with regards to children. The infant
3 mortality rate and the - the low birth weight in
4 Chester City is one of and a half to two times
5 higher than in any other place in the Commonwealth.

6 No other town or community would
7 endure the degrading environmental impacts that
8 Chester has. But Chester has put up with this
9 because folks in Chester, largely African American,
10 oftentimes middle to low income, have not been able
11 to leave this area in spite of the impacts.

12 The town where I live, in Swarthmore,
13 or take another majority white, largely well-to-do
14 suburban neighborhood in and around Chester, would
15 not put up with the sorts of things that have
16 happened here.

17 Just to the west end of Chester, now
18 on the boarder of the west end of Chester is in the
19 position of a new biohazard. It's a highly volatile
20 gas pipeline sponsored by Sunoco Logistics, or now
21 referred to as Energy Transfer Partners, that is
22 coming into this area because somehow, in the
23 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, private for-profit gas
24 line purveyors are able to claim imminent domain and
25 public utility status and impose their industrial

1 infrastructure on communities like Chester and
2 Marcus Hook irrespective of the environmental
3 impacts these new positions will have.

4 So I want to say a couple things.
5 First of all, the historic environmental racism and
6 environmental injustice that has characterized
7 Chester is not just something that's happened in the
8 past. It is something that continues. And the
9 imposition of this pipeline in and around the
10 community of Chester is a good example of that.

11 Secondly, I would like the EPA, as
12 Aurora just said, to help the community members like
13 us better facilitate our connections with friends
14 and neighbors in Chester so that we can band
15 together to resist this imposition of these
16 biohazards in the future.

17 I help with an organization called
18 Swarthmore Chester Leadership Institute. It's a
19 fellowship of Swarthmoreans and Chesterites who have
20 gotten together to intervene around the education
21 crisis in Chester, specifically with regards to
22 early childhood education. We are working against
23 the rising tide of biohazards in Chester which
24 undercuts the ability of children to learn and to
25 progress and to flourish in the classroom.

1 So as we focus on new challenges to
2 this community with, for example, the imposition of
3 the Sunoco pipeline, also could you help us better
4 the connections amongst ourselves so that we can
5 work together to resist future impositions and also
6 work together on the education crisis and healthcare
7 crisis to Chester City. Thank you.

8 MR. BRAKEALL: Thank you.

9 James Houtsel? Jean Davis? Sierra
10 Williams? Rick Kauffman? Portia West?

11 MS. WEST: Good evening, everyone.

12 MR. BRAKEALL: Good evening.

13 MS. WEST: I thought I was signing the
14 sign in sheet as well.

15 But first of all, I'd like to thank
16 the Department of Environmental Protection for their
17 assistance that you have provided to us here in
18 Chester, your partnership with the Chester
19 Environmental Partnership, which I'm a member. And
20 we are very grateful for the things that you have
21 done and the things that you will continue to do to
22 make sure that we have a safe environment.

23 I'd like to know - I just want to set
24 the record straight. There are a lot of people here
25 in Chester. We do not want to move. We love it

1 here. As a matter of fact, I'm looking to purchase
2 some land and to buy a house here, not Delaware or
3 anywhere else. Chester. I love Chester. And there
4 are a lot of us who feel the same way. So it's not
5 that we can't get out. A lot of us can and some of
6 us do. But some of us choose to stay here. And we
7 choose to stand and fight for a safe environment for
8 ourselves and our children.

9 I'd like to know more about the
10 Swarthmore and Chesterites we have in the room. I'd
11 like to know more about you. I've never heard about
12 you and would like to know more about what you're
13 doing because there are some of us that maybe you
14 should be talking to so that we can stand together.

15 So thank you all for coming out and
16 bringing comments and what have you. And I'd like
17 to thank this gentleman for your participation to
18 come out to all of our CEP meetings. And I want to
19 thank you for your support. And to secretary of the
20 DEP, thank you for being here to speak.

21 MR. BRAKEALL: Thank you.

22 Peter Osaba?

23 MR. OSABA: Hi there. I actually
24 didn't have anything planned to say until I walked
25 in here. I'm a member of an organization just -

1 which there are a number of members that pointed out
2 to me yesterday to us - to me about multiple groups
3 that I'm a member of.

4 My deepest concern for the State of
5 Pennsylvania is the impact of gas powered fracking
6 in the state. I've spoken to a couple of
7 politicians locally after meeting them and they were
8 doing some things about, you know, cleaning the air
9 around the pipe fracturing sites.

10 My concern is that we don't become
11 another earthquake center like Oklahoma. So I'm not
12 sure what is happening. There's never been an
13 earthquake in Oklahoma until high pressure fracking
14 became a developing industry in that state. Also
15 the policing of the aquifers, because many of us
16 have no idea what's occurring from the dumping of
17 the noxious water that goes into running these
18 facilities.

19 I think the concern about us being a
20 Commonwealth when in fact I'm deeply more concerned
21 about us being a corporate wealth. Corporations
22 have their fingers in just about everything we do
23 and sadly to say they are bothering many of the
24 public-private partnerships deliberately to give
25 everyone the impression that we are joining hands to

1 help one another. That can be furthest from the
2 truth as you wish to take it.

3 I'm not familiar with the gentlemen at
4 the front of the room because I came in a little
5 from training session. But I'm very, very concerned
6 about the impact of this industry in the State of
7 Pennsylvania. And I believe that all of us should
8 call our politicians and our agency heads and
9 request them that these industries be closed down
10 and put out of business so as to not poison the
11 water that we drink and the air that we breathe and
12 the land upon which we walk.

13 MR. BRAKEALL: Melissa Tier?

14 MS. TIER: Hi everyone. My name is
15 Melissa Tier. I'm the Sustainability Manager, also
16 at Swarthmore College. And I live in Media,
17 Pennsylvania. Thank you, first of all, for your
18 time.

19 I want to just basically give a
20 perspective from the community. And highlight
21 especially the - the environmental injustices across
22 the world. We know that young people are some of
23 the most harmed by biochemical toxins and related
24 impacts. Young folks, most of their bodies are
25 growing. And in the future, as the younger

1 generations face all of the many disasters that our
2 world is facing.

3 We need to highlight that fact that
4 there are many assets to environmental justice
5 community groups that are disproportionately
6 affected. As someone who works with students and as
7 still quite young myself, this is the focus of many
8 people.

9 And to - to the DEP, I guess my
10 request is to - as you identify goals for - for
11 developing goals in these communities to reach out
12 to young people and figure out who to engage them
13 and to make it known what you're doing. I think you
14 do incredible work and I have a lot of respect for
15 you. But we don't really know what you're involved
16 with. And these sessions are a great place for young
17 people who are starting to get more prepared.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. BRAKEALL: Thank you.

20 Jean Straton?

21 MR. STRATON: I don't have anything.

22 MR. BRAKEALL: Francis Baker?

23 Christine Adova?

24 MS. DOVA: Good evening everyone. My
25 name is Christine Adova. I am a lifelong resident

1 of the City of Chester. I am here on behalf of
2 State Representative Brian Kirkland who wanted me to
3 give you his regards. Currently, he is in
4 Harrisburg. He is in session today. But he wanted
5 to say thank you for coming out to the Chester
6 community and hearing the voice of the 159th
7 District.

8 Also, in our office, we do have many
9 services. And we want to encourage everyone in here
10 to stop in our offices to see exactly all the
11 services that we do provide. And again, I just
12 wanted to say thank you all for coming out and
13 voicing your opinion, as it is important. What you
14 have to say is very important. And I thank the DEP
15 for coming to this community again. Thank you.

16 MR. BRAKEALL: Thank you.

17 Abdul Muhammad? Dr. Marva King?

18 DR. KING: I'm Dr. Marva King, but I'm
19 letting everybody that I thought that was sign in
20 sheet too. So I'm just - well, I'm just bringing
21 great greetings from the Environmental Protection
22 Agency in Washington, DC. I work in the Office of
23 Environmental Justice.

24 And I got my Master's writing a thesis
25 on Chester at the University of Delaware. There

1 have been change - a lot of changes since then. But
2 there's still a lot of work that has to be done.
3 And a lot of work. And actually got my Ph.D. from
4 George Mason. And my distinction was on community
5 collaboration and environmental justice. And I say
6 this to the academia in the room, I'm glad you're
7 here. Make sure you - the mass of the EJ movement
8 is we speak for ourselves. So don't speak for them.

9 I would also like to tell - a little
10 critique. And it's basically on the signage
11 downstairs. There's no signage. And I think - I
12 almost didn't walk in the door because it said the
13 door closed at 4:30. And so we'd like to be very
14 open and public when we have meetings.

15 And I highly am really pleased about
16 this meeting. I had to work at home today. I had
17 to get up here fast and see what was happening. The
18 Department --- DEP has changed tremendously. And I
19 will say you're right on the road to South Carolina,
20 who I think is one of the best EPAs out here. And
21 It's not everyone who would think that. Right? But
22 they really are very good. And I think that you
23 guys are right there. Thanks.

24 MR. BRAKEALL: Thank you.

25 Carol Armstrong?

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: Hello. I'm Carol
2 Armstrong. I live in Chester County. I've been a
3 scientist professor of brain science for the past 35
4 years, oncology for the past 20 ---- brain cancer
5 and radiation for the past 25 years. And I am now
6 switching my career to a volunteer career I began as
7 trained by Penn State extension. And I'm spending
8 my time at the - on trying to work with the
9 wonderful many government and private groups trying
10 to restore our Pennsylvania waters.

11 Here - here are my comments. Engaging
12 people and raising a discussion defines our role as
13 citizens in democracy. One of the top priorities
14 for improving -I'm sorry - I want to thank the DEP
15 for your persistence in these demoralizing times,
16 for - you've had cuts to your budgets for more than
17 20 years. Still trying to serve the people of
18 Pennsylvania and our environment by maintaining our
19 constitutional rights. And I appreciate you having
20 a vision that you're trying to carry out. So some
21 of these things that I say you may already are
22 trying to incorporate. But I want to make the
23 points.

24 One of the top priorities of improving
25 environmental justice in Pennsylvania is to provide

1 more information to the residents and citizens of
2 Pennsylvania so that they are better prepared to
3 participate in the process of environmental
4 regulations. In order for citizens to participate
5 in risk decision, they need to have fuller and
6 earlier access. More participation may contribute
7 to better decision making by government, the
8 inclusion of a broader range of values in its
9 decisions and reduction in the probability of error.

10 Citizen involvement and democratic
11 processes and the institutions in which democracy
12 forms and enforces our society has increased
13 significantly in 2017. Citizens have been
14 handicapped by not knowing early enough the
15 potential risks of climate change, environmental
16 damage, and planned appropriations through
17 development and the placement of infrastructure or
18 new resource acquisition.

19 Citizens are also handicapped by not
20 participating in environmental decision making. For
21 example, the heightened risk to the City of Chester
22 for the effects of climate warming, which according
23 to Pennsylvania's --- is the highest of the major
24 cities in the state.

25 There has been an unfair imbalance of

1 knowledge which is giving corporations the advantage
2 and impacts citizen participation in our efforts to
3 meet. Public hearings are one form but are often
4 too late in the process - maybe not in this case -
5 but too late in the process and they are the only
6 institutional form of interaction between DEP and
7 the affected public.

8 It is well known that this mechanism
9 of hearings is flawed by weak prehearing procedure,
10 problems in providing good technical information in
11 a way that provides testament of the implications of
12 proposed actions and alternatives, a biased court
13 participation of parties that have high economic
14 stake in the decision and are biased against quality
15 of life in regional planning by those living in
16 impacted environments. And by the foundation by
17 organized interested whose main effect - those main
18 affects are on residents' lives.

19 We need to be able to place issues on
20 the ballot for voter approval which is the prototype
21 of the democratic process. So while this is a
22 process in need of the state as a whole, the DEP
23 might find that its own decision making process
24 could be improved by greater citizen involvement in
25 general. And by direct holds on specific

1 environmental issues especially when the regional
2 impacts have begun.

3 Another option is for DEP to establish
4 citizen review panels in order for the public to
5 participate in technically based decisions. This
6 gives access to technical information and
7 opportunity for debate of evidence in issues. In
8 this case, parties have had access to information as
9 needed which is historically lacking as it is now
10 and is a major component of their unrest and
11 complaints.

12 There is an increasing available pool
13 of residents - residents who are scientists in the
14 field of environmental studies and other relevant
15 fields. Review panels should always include
16 residents from the affected areas who are involved
17 in the institutions of that area such as schools and
18 groups to help environmental welfare.

19 In summary, the public needs to
20 participate on some basis for equality with federal
21 and state administration officials as experts and
22 corporate interests.

23 Many policies and processes have been
24 incompatible with democratic ideals. The DEP's
25 efforts will only achieve its goals in environmental

1 justice if the public can review a request early in
2 this decision making process rather than in the last
3 steps of granting approval.

4 Furthermore, acknowledgements -
5 acknowledgement that more public participation is
6 needed aside from public participation and decision
7 models that underlie policy decisions. Although the
8 public tends to emphasize catastrophic effects on
9 low probability events their participation would
10 inform policy makers about how to weight sources of
11 insurgency and risk assessments, how to compare
12 risks, and how to balance scientific concern against
13 the magnitude or irreversibility and ecological
14 effects.

15 Thank you for this opportunity.

16 MR. BRAKEALL: John Shelton?

17 MR. SHELTON: Good morning. We're
18 glad that you're here. We need you. First where we
19 should have been years ago. I wish it had happened
20 40 years ago. But it's happening now. Thank you.

21 MR. BRAKEALL: Jocelyn Basamanti?

22 MS. BASAMANTI: Hi. I'm Jocelyn
23 Basamanti. And I've been a resident of the City of
24 Chester since 1989. And I'm glad that the DEP is
25 here to hear our concerns of the residents. And I

1 want to emphasize that there are problems to
2 people's health here because of the pollution to the
3 environment coming from several pollution industries
4 and that we need clean water, clean up the air, and
5 keep our lives up from - I don't know of how many
6 air monitors there are in and around City of
7 Chester.

8 But if there aren't any, there should
9 definitely be - monitored and to be sure that the
10 air is clean enough, especially because our children
11 live here and have asthma. And in addition to
12 Philadelphia having a high asthma rate, the City of
13 Chester does, too, and the hospitalizations because
14 of the respiratory problems here.

15 I wanted to say that the Pennsylvania
16 DEP gathered in August of 2016 to show the air
17 pollution of Pennsylvania's natural gas production
18 sites increased from 2013 to 2014. Unfortunately,
19 the data meets air emissions of Shale Gas emissions
20 in reports, but many other air pollutants could be
21 unreported - underreporting their presence in our
22 air because the data was supplied by the oil and gas
23 industry themselves. And they have been criticized
24 for producing inaccurate figures from outdated
25 methods and not verifying that they're taking - for

1 this year's direct source of a pollutant.

2 This increase in finely structured air
3 pollutants happen while operational well sites and
4 their supporting infrastructure might --- which also
5 released pollutants declined by 2.7 percent, but the
6 number of pipelines and their supporting
7 infrastructure increased by 12 percent from 2013
8 until 2014.

9 Since these pipelines and their
10 related infrastructure sites emit pollutants, they
11 must be treated as a threat to our air quality. The
12 air pollutants increased from 2013 to 2014. Our
13 pollutants includes sulfur dioxide, which was 40
14 percent and contributes to acid rain and causes
15 respiratory problems including asthma. Nitrogen
16 oxide was 18 percent and included the foul smell of
17 nitrogen dioxide and nitric acid which - which with
18 other airborne chemicals help form smog and other
19 particulate matter in the ozone. And all of these
20 components have harmful effects on the respiratory
21 system and can cause asthma or aggravate it.

22 Particulate matter and well-absorbed
23 organic compounds rose 25 percent. Carbon monoxide
24 rose 19 percent. And methane, which rose 12
25 percent, is a much more potent greenhouse gas than

1 carbon dioxide by trapping 28 times more heat.

2 Additionally, particulate matter
3 causes heart attacks and can be fatal for people
4 with heart and lung disease. While also organic
5 compounds are irritants that can cause headaches,
6 nausea and liver and kidney damage.

7 Carbon monoxide is undetectable to the
8 five senses and is harmful and can be deadly because
9 it displaces oxygen in the blood and denies the
10 heart and other organs of oxygen. Extended exposure
11 to a lot of CO or carbon monoxide causes symptoms
12 such as headaches, drowsiness, nausea, muscle
13 weakness, unconsciousness and finally, suffocation.

14 The problem of methane is acid.
15 Methane in air at 5 to 15 percent can be explosive,
16 cause large concentrations of methane in enclosed
17 areas, decreasing the amount of oxygen in the air,
18 it can lead to humans experiencing nausea,
19 headaches, dizziness, unconsciousness and potential
20 suffocation.

21 And fossil fuels including natural gas
22 here in Pennsylvania, the state's DEP should conduct
23 frequent unannounced tests, measuring with
24 instruments at multiple points in all commercial
25 sites that are capable of releasing any type of

1 toxic emissions into our air and water.

2 The daily monitoring of emissions
3 should happen in any industrial sites or coal-fired
4 and gas-fired power plants should be done by
5 equipment and instruments that have an accuracy
6 reliability frequently, verified by a state agency
7 so that these emissions is meant to protect our
8 health.

9 The end of any production, transport
10 or burning of natural gas or any fossil fuel must
11 occur after 15, the rise in global warning to the
12 limit of to one and a half degrees Celsius will
13 stop the worst effects of climate change.

14 Natural gas, which primarily contains
15 methane and small scents of other components,
16 including the pollutants I mentioned above, is
17 dangerous and contributes to climate change from the
18 moment of its extraction from underground through
19 the tubes and burning at the power plant, your home
20 or in a business where it releases CO2.

21 This can lead to an explosion
22 happening at one of the natural gas drilling sites
23 and the pipelines carrying fossil fuel products into
24 the businesses and homes that use these products.
25 In total, these accidents have killed thousands of

1 people. And sometimes the natural gas explosions
2 have destroyed one or a few homes in the
3 neighborhood. And at other times, an entire block
4 of homes has been destroyed.

5 Do we really want to continue to live
6 with the anxiety of not knowing about the customary
7 use of fossil fuels in our businesses, schools and
8 homes?

9 The latest research shows that
10 extinctions due to climate change have already
11 occurred in hundreds of plant and animal species
12 around the world. As we are known for our safe
13 forms of energy to power our electrical grid or
14 directly provide energy through work, through the
15 school or where you live. We in the future can
16 avoid the risk of not doing what we could to prevent
17 tragedies caused by recent fossil fuels or not doing
18 all we could to prevent the worst weather that's a
19 result of climate change and protect the health and
20 safety of future generations and our already
21 vulnerable adolescents.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. BRAKEALL: Vanessa Dressick?
24 Catherine Flag?

25 MS. FLAG: Good evening. I would like

1 to say to the DEP, thank you so much for coming.
2 I'm one of the citizens who's lived in Chester all
3 my life - most of my life, and I chose to stay here.
4 And, you know, we need you. We desperately need
5 you. Now, I'm encouraging you to work with local
6 organizations. The EPA has been placed under a lot
7 of strain. And the other organizations and city
8 officials to make a difference in the city so there
9 will be a healthy, safe place for us to live. Thank
10 you.

11 MR. BRAKEALL: John Scott?

12 MR. SCOTT: Good evening, Mr.
13 Secretary. Thank you, Carl, for doing this. I
14 bring greetings on the behalf of Covanta. Covanta
15 is the world's largest energy from waste facility.
16 We have a facility here at Chester that's been here
17 for over 25 years.

18 Ever since Covanta has assumed
19 operation facility, we have acted within guidelines
20 as well as EPA regulations. It's been a pleasure to
21 work with Covanta and also Chester - the Chester
22 community. To me, Chester is family. All of the
23 folks that you see here I have grown very close to
24 after five years of working here.

25 It's something that is gratifying to

1 me to be able to go out to the schools and talk
2 about environmental education, to go to the
3 universities of approved positions, to establish
4 non-profits such as Keep Chester Beautiful, that
5 focus on litter prevention and waste reduction.
6 It's something that Covanta has had a part in. And
7 I believe that the industry and community can
8 continue to create a brighter Chester on a regular
9 basis.

10 So again, I thank Carl for leading
11 this. I know that he is pretty much a band of one
12 at this point. And I definitely believe that, you
13 know, moving forward, that a lot of resources should
14 be put into environmental justice advocacy. So
15 thank you.

16 MR. BRAKEALL: Thurman Brendlinger?

17 MR. BRENDLINGER: Thank you again for
18 being here. I'm with Clean Air Council, and we're a
19 non-profit organization helping to preserve
20 everyone's right to breathe clean air.

21 And I think Ms. West mentioned
22 earlier, everybody in Chester who lives in Chester
23 shouldn't have to move away from the pollution
24 that's here. And to see the situation conducted
25 here in Chester is certainly not just one - a number

1 of plants to that cumulative effect has a huge
2 health burden on the citizens of Chester.

3 So that plus - I don't know, someone
4 had mentioned earlier, this is the 95 corridor. So
5 there's diesel traffic going up and down 95, which
6 causes emissions of 2.5 and is deadly. And so that
7 along with everything else are all burdensome to
8 this community.

9 So it's great that we're getting
10 together here tonight to talk about an idea that we
11 might put out there --- from the settlement fund,
12 perhaps the funds from that could be shifted towards
13 cities like Chester to help alleviate some issues.

14 So thank you again for the
15 opportunity.

16 MR. BRAKEALL: Thank you.

17 Louis Grand? Saiga Elliott? Last on
18 the list is Sarah Casson?

19 MS. CASSON: Good evening.

20 MR. BRAKEALL: Good evening.

21 MS. CASSON: Secretary McDonnell and
22 Mr. Jones, thank you for being here. And hopefully,
23 thank you for listening.

24 My name is Sarah Casson. I'm 82 years
25 old. I've pretty much been dedicated to the

1 environment for most of my life. I went to college.
2 I was a late bloomer. And I graduated with a
3 Bachelor's in chemistry and biology and went to work
4 for Temple Med School and then the University of
5 Pennsylvania.

6 From there, I went back to school to
7 get my certificate to teach high school chemistry
8 and biology. And low and behold in 1988, I went to
9 work for EPA here in Chester.

10 I worked in the super pond, I worked
11 in waste management, and I worked in the inspection
12 of aboveground tanks. Try climbing it, I was there.

13 So there's a history here. The
14 history is our problem. And because of the history,
15 we need to look at it carefully, like you said. We
16 don't want this to continue. So let's start with
17 fracking.

18 Fracking came in and in no time, they
19 contaminated the drinking water which people rely,
20 and nobody stepped in and said don't do this. The
21 DEP did not. They were there but somebody should've
22 stood up and said this is not right.

23 So let's move on from fracking. And
24 we'll go now to pipelines. The same thing is
25 happening. Nobody is informing people of the risks

1 of having a pipeline go by their hospital or school,
2 et cetera. It is dangerous. And we can see it now.
3 People are reading about it. Everything that has
4 been happening with pipelines - so let's do
5 something about it. And I'd like to make the
6 Lancaster meeting.

7 My colleague, Secretary McDonnell and
8 others talked about what was important. But a
9 dialogue is not just me talking to you. You've got
10 to speak to us, too. You've got to the community
11 organized. You've got to speak to them. You've got
12 to work with them you've got to help communities
13 know what they need to look out for, where they have
14 a right, what they can say no to without being
15 thrown in jail, sued for umpteen dollars or
16 whatever.

17 So communities, that's what I ask of
18 you. Help us and we'll help you. Thank you.

19 MR. BRAKEALL: That's everyone on our
20 list. Is there anyone else that'd like to speak at
21 this time that has not spoken?

22 Yes?

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'd like to rescind
24 my non-comment. And I've been inspired by this
25 young lady because she says that she's 83 - 82, 80-

1 something. In the 80s. Well, I'm - this is your
2 partner in crime. And if I see to it before, I
3 think I may make 84.

4 But I'm sure you guys do good, but we
5 also have to continue to work on our environment.
6 We work hard here in Chester. And we've come a long
7 ways. But I am concerned about our Delaware River.

8 I believe that it's not really as
9 clean as it should. I really wouldn't even want to
10 eat fish from the Delaware River.

11 I am concerned about a high rate of
12 asthma. And I'm also concerned because I didn't
13 hear this. We also have a high rate of glaucoma
14 here in the city. You know all that.

15 Now, with this, we've come a long way,
16 but we still have a ways to go because we have had a
17 grant. And we had a grant from many programs. That
18 was wonderful. But we no longer have it. So
19 hopefully, there will be somewhere we'll be able to
20 get some funds to continue that.

21 Global warming, I know through living
22 influence - influence the people in D.C. that there
23 is such a thing as global warming. And we know that
24 just by this past winter. This past winter, we only
25 had one kind of a snow, that maybe you could get one

1 or two shovels. But it was a warm winter. That's
2 global warming. And we need to let them know in
3 Washington that - respect God's work. It's global
4 warming, but we are contributing. If we then
5 contribute, then it would do it a little
6 differently.

7 Now, another thing, I have to say that
8 Covanta, although they are - they might be known as
9 burning waste or whatever - I have to say publicly
10 that they are good neighbors. Covanta really helps
11 the city. I know that everybody has problems, but
12 because of CEP in this city, which many of us even
13 might remember, but because of Dr. Strand and CEP
14 and his board, they keep Covanta and anybody else
15 that comes into the city on their toes.

16 So to the young lady that said - I
17 think it was a young lady - that said we need to all
18 work together, we do here in Chester work together
19 even though we - we're not perfect yet, but we're
20 working in that direction.

21 What we need you fellows from
22 Pennsylvania to continue to fight the struggle for
23 us and please remind D.C. You know what I mean.
24 All right.

25 So I just brought my business card

1 because I was not aware of the Chester Swarthmore
2 partnership. But I want to get the gentleman - I
3 want to give the gentleman my card, because anything
4 concerning Chester, I'm here by choice. I love
5 Chester. I love the community. And I stay here -
6 and I stay here because this is where my church
7 family is.

8 This is where my community family.
9 And if you ever come back to Chester, we stay here a
10 while. You will know that Chester is one family.
11 Because we have one high school, so everybody in
12 Chester went to that one school. So we know each
13 other. And we are connected some kind of way down
14 the line. We are family. So we are very, very
15 sensitive about what you said about our Chester.

16 But we're - we're on the move and
17 thank God for Dr. Strand. Thank God for you
18 gentlemen. And listen, if you really want to be
19 continuously interested, come June 19th to our town
20 meeting, Monday night at Faith Holy Temple. There's
21 flyers on the table. And the national president
22 will be here to speak to us. But we're - we're
23 fighting, we're struggling and we need to continue
24 to improve our city.

25 But thank you again, gentleman, for

1 coming and for listening. And thanks for all those
2 that speak in and out of Chester. We do appreciate
3 you coming down to see us. Thank you.

4 DR. STRAND: Last two here, we tried
5 to stay within the three minutes.

6 DIRECTOR JONES: We were having John
7 call the list. And then we will have people - we
8 have more time, you can come up again for additional
9 testimony.

10 DR. STRAND: Well, we only want to
11 come up for -.

12 DIRECTOR JONES: You want to do it
13 there?

14 DR. STRAND: All right. If you don't
15 mind.

16 DIRECTOR JONES: That's fine.

17 DR. STRAND: I just want to say a huge
18 thanks because of the fact that we're trying to stay
19 within the confines of three minutes.

20 Number one, we've been working hard in
21 the city for years to try to address the issues of
22 this time. One of the issues we've dealt with is
23 the industry that are emitting, you know, the toxic
24 fumes. We have a company under the name of
25 Kimberly-Clark that has listened to the community,

1 met with the mayor and council. And at the advice
2 of this community, we advised them to do away with
3 their coal burning premises.

4 We can all kind of talk to the
5 communities there and to convert to natural gas,
6 which is a much cleaner source for energy. This
7 came because of a partnership between the community
8 and industry. Right now they're, lobbying in the
9 State of Pennsylvania, the Governor's Office, for
10 support for over a hundred and some odd million
11 dollars to make that conversion. That will
12 eliminate a lot of the emissions here that we're
13 dealing with.

14 Also, DELCORA has converted its coal
15 furnaces into natural gas, a much cleaner resource.

16 We'll turn to fracking, they were
17 going to bring all of the fracking water that they
18 could down to DELCORA and do treatment and dump it
19 in the Delaware River. This community, along with
20 environmental organizations banded together and
21 stopped them.

22 So for the first time in history, we
23 had the DEP rescind the permit that they - DELCORA -
24 improperly - and had the secretary make a public
25 announcement apologizing for the permit.

1 We're a proactive community here. As
2 far as management is concerned, for ten years, we've
3 worked with the DEP and the federal government to do
4 an asthma daycare program and had the data, along
5 with Crozer, that showed that because of our
6 efforts, the children's asthma rate declined.
7 Admissions to the emergency room and absenteeism in
8 school declined as a result of the work that we did.
9 And all the money was pulled. Okay?

10 We know what to do. We know what our
11 problems are. We just need somebody to come in here
12 and empower this community because we are competent,
13 professionals, scientists and educators who are
14 working to change this thing around. We took over
15 the government and the bragging folks that was a
16 part of the problem and created the math and put
17 people in place that are sensitive and concerned
18 about this community.

19 So on June the 19th, we got the
20 director of an organization that's got a lot of
21 money. Okay? And we need to be there to let her
22 know that Chester's ready to move forward, give us
23 the money. Help us do the research. Help us do the
24 work.

25 And Mr. Secretary, if you could please

1 tell the government to just give us some money so we
2 can have this.

3 DIRECTOR JONES: We have one more
4 person that hasn't spoken yet.

5 MS. SMITH: Livia Smith. I'm the
6 Director of the Health Services in the City of
7 Cheseter. And some of the things that you all just
8 said, I concur with. We have funding for asthma and
9 lead. And over the years, it seems as if the money
10 that I see - the money is pulled and redirected to
11 other areas to take care of the bills that we have.
12 Okay?

13 So I'm asking that we will seriously
14 use the money we need in the city to redirect that
15 funding back to the City of Chester so we can take
16 care of our environment which is here.

17 Now, we have a very good health
18 department and health education. And we do allow
19 information or give out information to our citizens,
20 and also our citizens including our students in
21 schools so they can figure out and became aware of
22 what the quality of air is like for them. I'm a
23 retired teacher. And I can say I'm not told about
24 the exterior air that we breathe in based on the
25 quality of air issue internally in our aging school

1 district. I know you're not the Department of
2 Education. But you can just relay this.

3 Because of our aging schools - our
4 newest schools are 40 years old. And some people
5 here may be 40 years and younger. So I'm just
6 saying that the air internally is - is a detriment
7 as much as the air externally in our environment.
8 We're plagued by black mold and all those germs that
9 contain allergens. Okay?

10 So I'm just saying from a health
11 perspective, look at the internal structures of our
12 aging buildings. Look at the external structures of
13 our city because they aren't just going to stop in
14 Chester. It goes up through --- we might even want
15 to have all the industries have --- the initiative
16 takes place because of very unhealthy conditions.

17 It took me until the age 50 until I
18 got asthma. So you can see how certain things can
19 be within the system for a long period of time being
20 dormant. And it just takes certain airborne things
21 that will trigger some other illnesses that people
22 have. So I just wanted to say that for the record.

23 Bring funding back home so we can
24 continue to do the work that we need to do for us.
25 And when you help us, the oldest city in the

1 Commonwealth -

2 MS. SMITH: - the oldest city in
3 Delaware County, that we will also share our air.

4 MR. BRAKEALL: Anyone else that would
5 like to speak? Yes?

6 DR. WINTERS: Good evening. I'm
7 Roberta Winters and at this time I would like to
8 speak on behalf of the League of Women Voters of
9 Delaware County which I serve in a leadership
10 capacity. And I'd like to speak after the last
11 speaker.

12 More than four decades ago, the League
13 of Women Voters of Central Delaware County set up a
14 meeting for the public health department. Since
15 that position was updated in 2009, we have learned
16 that the Delaware County, where we currently sit, is
17 the largest county in the United States of America
18 without a public health department. After we speak
19 tonight to you so that you might join with us in
20 supporting the formation of a Delaware County
21 Department of Public Health.

22 Given the environmental justice
23 concerns of this area and the need for the safety of
24 our emergency preparedness in facing potential
25 disasters of unknown proportion, a public - a Public

1 Health Department would provide basic Public health
2 services, find the problems and identify public
3 health and safety issues and improve the health of
4 residents. Promote public education on these issues
5 and coordinate responses to public health and safety
6 emergencies and meet state and federal requirements.

7 Further, by consolidating public
8 health services in a single government entity that
9 makes federal and state requirements in our county.
10 This makes Delaware County eligible for the state
11 and federal funds, bring tax payer dollars back in
12 the county and provide additional resources that
13 will improve the quality and scope of public health
14 services to all county residents by ensuring
15 government coordination and timely response to
16 public health emergencies.

17 Thank you for your consideration and
18 opportunity to address this matter with you.

19 MR. BRAKEALL: Thank you. Nobody
20 else?

21 DIRECTOR JONES: Going once, going
22 twice before we close out.

23 Again, I want to say thank you all for
24 taking the time out this evening to spend with us,
25 giving us information that we can use to start the

1 conversation with you all about how we view
2 environmental justice inside of the Commonwealth.

3 As I said at the beginning, up on the
4 screen is our contact information. If you know
5 folks who are not able to make it out tonight but
6 who would like to give us testimony, please have
7 them email us or send it to us in writing. We look
8 forward to receiving as much feedback as we can.
9 And it helps us in doing research. I'll turn it
10 back over to Secretary McDonnell. But thank you
11 again for being here tonight.

12 SECRETARY MCDONNELL: Thank you all
13 for bringing incredibly thoughtful comments, the
14 passion that everybody had for your area. You know,
15 sitting up here, can't help but - the DEP was
16 impacted by that, frankly.

17 So we very, very much appreciate all
18 you've brought here both today and what you've
19 brought in the past. And what you'll bring to the
20 conversation in the future. And we very, very much
21 look forward to working with each and every one of
22 you. So thank you very much for your time and
23 attention tonight. Thank you.

24 * * * * *

25 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 6:33 P.M.

CERTIFICATE

1
2 I hereby certify that the foregoing
3 proceedings, hearing held before Director Jones was
4 reported by me on 5/23/2017 and that I, Nicole B.
5 Slick, read this transcript, and that I attest that
6 this transcript is a true and accurate record of the
7 proceeding.

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10 

11 Court Reporter

12 Nicole B. Slick
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