

Testimony DEP Citizens' Advisory Council

My name is Betsy Conover. I'm a resident of Londonderry Township in Dauphin Co.

The clean power plan is personal. I grew up in PA on the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers. I learned how to canoe and swim in the Delaware, and I learned how to identify trees on the Susquehanna. I grew up hiking the woods and trails of Pennsylvania and experienced my first whitewater on Pine Creek. As a child, the woods were my epicenter, my universe. In 1968 when we moved to Londonderry Twp, it was rural, beautiful farmland. My best friend lived down the road on a beautiful old farm. Just down the river was Brunner Island -the coal-fired power plant- and the hydropower facility at York Haven. In the 70's my dad -a mechanical engineering professor- took advantage of Carter's energy tax credits, and our house became the first in PA to have rooftop solar. During the construction of TMI in the 70's, my friend's farm was bought out, and we watched the slow erection of the cooling towers from our house. In our little piece of backyard, we had it all: coal, hydro, nuclear, solar. In 1979 when i was studying forestry at the state land grant university, the partial meltdown at TMI occurred. My sister who was still at home became the industry poster child for 'all's well' as she was caught running her daily route with a cooling tower eclipsing the background. Later that fall my father was diagnosed with brain cancer. I still remember those t-shirts: Kiss me. First i radiate, then i meltdown.

After college I left PA. I lived in some of the most beautiful parts of this country, but i always missed my Pennsylvania woods. Childhood is sacred. Nature is sacred.

Two years ago, I returned to PA, and I returned to a different state. I stepped off the plane and was greeted with Marcellus Shale advertisements in the airport. Then I spent a lot of time catching up and learning about fracking. The state land grant u where i'd studied forestry had become a hub for research and study of MS. When i went off to recreate in Penn's woods i was met with clearcut swathes, construction crews, heavy equipment, signage and flagging. On a backpacking trip in a remote part of the state, we were rewarded with a view of a fracking wellpad and en route to the trailhead passed truck traffic hauling waste water, residual water, produced water. I visited frack country up north, listened to the stories of residents who'd lost their drinking water, their homes, their livelihood, their health. I heard how they 'frack the community, then frack the land'.

A few months ago, I learned that Sunoco Logistics was in our backyard. The Mariner East pipelines with their pump and valve stations and flare stacks are routed through Londonderry Twp.

Last week I went to a twp meeting in another pipeline county and saw firsthand how the gas industry is doing with pipeline communities what they did with well-site communities: fracking the community, then laying the pipeline down. The twp supervisors after listening patiently to residents and their legal team long into the night

could not make a decision. The community was divided.

Since i've been back, i've often wondered if i want to stay; my woods are being fracked, the little grand canyon of Pa fracked, the Delaware has been deemed special, for some reason the Susquehanna not. The pipelines in PA run like a tinker toy construction across the state.

I'm not sure there's a wilderness experience left in Pa.

So, how should PA implement the clean power plan?

PA should implement a plan that emphasizes **efficiency, conservation and renewables**. Fossil fuels must stay in the ground; the carbon budget dictates that. Taxing carbon (and that includes methane an even more potent greenhouse gas) creates a level playing field; eliminates subsidies and can return a dividend to families. We can not simultaneously have an agricultural revolution and an oil and gas revolution, though both have been called for. A **mass-based plan** that addresses emissions quantitatively and a plan that strengthens renewable portfolio standards is the way to move forward.

Let's maintain the greatest **assets** of our state: recreation, the outdoors and agriculture. Let's get behind a plan that provides good, healthy, sustainable jobs to our residents. Let's lead in the move to **renewables** in this country.

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