

When my husband and myself moved to Pittsburgh in 1995, we thought this would be our forever home, the place where we would grow old, the place where we would be buried. But now we don't want to live here anymore.

In 2010, I first became aware of fracking. There was so much about it that sounded unsafe and/or unproven. I read everything I could about it. And then the next thing I

knew, I was going to meetings and hearings along with many other members of my community to stop wells being drilled near my suburban neighborhood, wells in Braddock, in Churchill, and in Oakmont. I found myself going to demonstrations downtown and in Harrisburg. I, along side of some of the smartest kindest people one could ever meet, handed out informational leaflets and tried to have conversations,

sometimes successfully with oil and gas people outside the conventions that they hold regularly in Pittsburgh.

Sometimes, when I supplied written testimony to the DEP I would call the DEP after the submission deadline closed. It was always the same story--single or double digit comments pro natural gas extraction, triple digit comments against. In person hearings are the same: one or two representatives from the

fossil fuel industry, dozens sometimes hundreds of community speakers opposing them. Yet the rulings are consistently in favor of fossil fuels.

Less than a quarter mile from my house, "oil bombs", 100 oil tankers in a row, run along the decrepit train tracks. I can't breathe the air. I and many of my friends and their children have respiratory issues, some quite severe. The shores of the Monongahela, where I

used to walk my dog, are littered with plastic.

The Ohio River Valley Institute recently released a report determining that job growth and income growth in the PA counties that had the most fracking all lagged behind both the rest of the state and especially the nation.

Population declines in those counties are also greater than elsewhere in the state. The same holds true for Beaver county, home of the Shell

ethane cracker. Radioactive waste from natural gas drilling is still being found in PA rivers and streams. Workers who work in some parts of the fracking industry are being exposed to unsafe levels of radioactivity. Oil and gas infrastructure along with unfettered suburban sprawl has disfigured the once beautiful PA landscape and put increasing pressure on our natural ecosystems.

Meanwhile, the natural gas

industry keeps pushing closer and closer to where I live.

Widen the lens and food is becoming more expensive as farms both in-state and country-wide are being damaged by climate changed exacerbated drought and floods. Disease is becoming more rampant. Yet Pennsylvania continues to subsidize fossil fuels.

According to a 2021 report by PennFuture, PA subsidizes the

fossil fuel industry to the tune of 3.8 billion dollars a year. Support for the oil and gas industry comes from both sides of the aisle. Our own Democratic governor who I voted for is proudly supporting turning my region into a carbon capture and sequestration and blue hydrogen hub--a false solution and handout to the natural gas business if there ever was one. That's my tax dollars, that's my heart and lungs, that's the lives of every

living creature in this state.

By residing in PA, I am being forced to subsidize not just my own demise and the demise of everyone I love but that of Pennsylvania's once abundant wild and aquatic life. PA is a major producer of fossil fuels and the industry has its tentacles in every aspect of our lives from how the majority of our food is produced, to the excessive plastic packing on every possible item in every possible store, to furnishings

and housing.

PA refuses to do what needs to be done. Stop subsidizing fossil fuels. Use that close to \$4 billion a year to instead subsidize renewable energy projects, support green manufacturing that employ union labor, clean up our rivers and streams, and support a Just Transition for oil and gas workers who might be left behind. Support mass transportation. Review and strengthen PA's zoning codes

to reduce sprawl and keep the remaining fossil fuel infrastructure far away from homes and sensitive ecosystems. Acknowledge and treat fracking brine and conventional drilling waste as the hazardous product it is. Strengthen housing codes to reduce both the squandering of our energy supplies and our reliance on fossil fuels.

Please, I know that by asking you to stand up to the powerful oil, gas, and coal industries I

am asking many of you to put your jobs and your personal futures on the line. But this is quite literally a matter of life and death for all of us.