



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 19, 2019

Dear Karen Feridun,

My administration has made real strides to improve Pennsylvania's regulations on oil and gas development. Despite powerful opposition, we have put in place new protections to more rigorously protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land where we live. These regulations protect Pennsylvanians from negative environmental and health impacts and are part of our work to ensure that we're being responsive to science.

Pennsylvania's natural gas development is providing economic benefits to the commonwealth. However, these benefits should not require a choice between them and public health or safety. It is essential that as we realize economic benefits, we ensure the public is protected—especially our children—and take the necessary steps to aggressively regulate resource development.

While there is significant oil and gas activity in the southwestern counties of our state, as well as a long legacy of development of other natural resources, there is currently no known environmental cause of Ewing's sarcoma. The Department of Health was initially asked to undertake an analysis of this area as a potential cancer cluster based on radiation concerns. We will continue to monitor and study cancer incidents in this area, especially as more data becomes available.

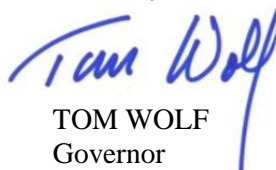
Further, my administration's epidemiologists just completed a years-long and exhaustive review of relevant literature regarding the potential health impacts of hydraulic fracturing. After working with epidemiologists in Colorado, their peer-reviewed paper determined that the results were inconclusive, and suggested that further in-depth research is warranted.

In these matters I defer to the expertise of the health professionals who have devoted their careers to ensuring that the public is protected from health risks. We will continue to research and study the evidence from Pennsylvania, and closely monitor the academic literature as it develops elsewhere. This work is incredibly resource-intensive, but it must be done.

I have asked my Secretary of Health, Dr. Rachel Levine, to assess the best ways to spur additional academic, science-based study of potential public health impacts from oil and gas development. We will continue to make decisions guided by science, and we encourage the public to provide information to the Department of Health.



Sincerely,

  
TOM WOLF  
Governor