October 1, 2019

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

The Department of Health is holding a meeting at the Canon-McMillan High School in Washington County on October 7 to discuss the spike in rare cancers diagnosed in children in the district in recent years. The cases are among the shocking number of rare cancer diagnoses in four counties hard hit by shale gas development in rural southwestern Pennsylvania. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette has reported that at least 67 cases have been diagnosed. In June, more than 100 organizations and many Pennsylvanian residents asked you to conduct an investigation. You refused. We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, are now calling on you to attend the meeting on October 7 and hear from the families firsthand.

You have a responsibility, both to your constituents who are battling cancer or have lost loved ones and to the parents of all children who need to know what they can do to protect them from becoming cancer patients by the time they are young adults. The best they can do at present, if they can afford it, is to move.

In June, you responded to our call for an investigation by saying, “We will continue to monitor and study cancer incidents in this area, especially as more data becomes available.” Taking such a passive stance in the face of a public health crisis is not acceptable. You used - as your excuse - a Department of Health study conducted in conjunction with Colorado’s health department that concluded that the data linking shale gas development and health impacts are inconclusive. The methodologies employed to make that claim have been questioned in a detailed letter from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project to Dr. Levine that has, to date, received no response.

That letter also challenges your administration’s failure to act because you say causation has not been established. “That does not confer upon us a freedom to ignore the knowledge we already have, or to postpone the action that it appears to demand at a given time,” says an expert quoted in the letter.

To date, you have refused to listen to the science, to tour the area, or to meet with the families who have been directly affected. It is time for you to witness the impacts firsthand and hear directly from the people who have already suffered so much or are living on edge, unsure of
what they can do to avoid being next. They cannot wait years for further study. It is time for you to start taking a proactive stance to protect Pennsylvanians.

Please join us at the public meeting on October 7.

Respectfully,

Christine Barton, Washington, PA
David Barton, Washington, PA
Janice Blanock, Washington, PA
Kurt Blanock, Washington, PA
Kaitlyn Blanock, Washington, PA
Laura Blanock, Washington, PA
Marisa Blayney, Washington, PA
Jody Lackey, Washington, PA
Carla Marratto Cumming, Allegheny, PA
Melissa McGowan, Washington, PA

Organizations and Businesses
350 Bucks County
350 Philadelphia
Allegheny County Clean Air Now
Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community (BCMAC)
Berks Gas Truth
Better Path Coalition
Breathe Easy Susquehanna County
Bucks County Concerned Citizens Against the Pipelines
Bucks County Sierra Club
Bucks Environmental Action
Camp White Pine
Clinton County Democratic Committee
Concerned Health Professionals of New York
Defend Ohi:yo'
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Earth Ethics, Inc.
Earthkeeper Health Resources
Food & Water Watch
FracTracker Alliance
FreshWater Accountability Project
Friends of the Loyalsock
Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition of Luzerne County PA
Grassroots Environmental Education
Green Party of Allegheny County
Izaak Walton League of America, Allegheny County chapter
Lancaster Against Pipelines
Marcellus Outreach Butler
MarchOnHarrisburg
Mountain Road Jiu-Jitsu
Neighboors Against The Gas Plants
NoPetroPA
PA Interfaith Power & Light
Patriots From The Oil & Gas Shales
PA Alliance for Clean Water and Air
Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) Philadelphia / PA
Potter's Farm
Project CoffeeHouse
Protect PT
Put People First! PA
Rabbit Run Farm
Resolution Media Fund
Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA)
Save Our Streams PA
Schuykill Pipeline Awareness
Southwest PA Environmental Health Project
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)
Sustainable Monroeville
SWPA Environmental Health Project
The Center for Coalfield Justice
Unitarian Universalist PA Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN)
Upper Burrell Citizens Against Marcellus Pollution

Individuals:
Debbie Adams, Philadelphia, PA  Priscilla Becroft, Philadelphia, PA
Susan Ader, Lancaster, PA  Mary Bell, Washington, PA
Kerri Allen, Allegheny , PA  Kirsten Berger, Washington, PA
Peter Antinopoulos, Beaver, PA  Barbara Beyer, Chester, PA
Greta Aul, Lancaster, PA  Madeline Rae Beyer, Allegheny, PA
Michael Bagdes-Canning, Butler, PA  Wendy Blanock, Washington, PA
Nina Baker, York, PA  Eric Blanock, Washington, PA
Geri Barnes, Washington, PA  Kala Blefere, Allegheny, PA
Lindsey Barnhart, Allegheny , PA  Hannah Blinn, Allegheny, PA
Kristine Barrett, Allegheny, PA  Valerie Bloom, Montgomery, PA
Tamara Bauer, Allegheny, PA  Denise Bohn, Washington, PA
Terrie Baumgardner, Beaver, PA  Emily Borcz, Butler, PA
Kellie Beach, Washington, PA  Catherine Borges, Bucks, PA
Christopher Beaver, Allegheny, PA  Norman A. Bourg, Fairfax, VA
Ann Beck, Bucks, PA  Mary L. Bourg, Washington, PA
Rebecca Britton, Chester, PA
Cindy Brodbeck, Lancaster, PA
Frank Broff, Bucks, PA
Marsha Brofka-Berends, Chester, PA
Lynn Bryant, Washington, PA
Susan Bryce, Bucks, PA
Jacqueline Busalacchi, Denton, TX
David Butler, Philadelphia, PA
Brenda Buzzelli, Washington, PA
Joyce Calvitti, Montgomery, PA
John Campbell, Montgomery, PA
Sharon Carras, Allegheny, PA
Dianne Carroll, Allegheny, PA
Margaret Carrow, Dauphin, PA
David Casker, Cambria, PA
Edward Cavey, Chester, PA
Jessa Chabeau, Allegheny, PA
Lori Chambers, Washington, PA
Tammi Checca, Washington, PA
Jim Ciotti, Washington, PA
Nancy Roecker Coates, Montgomery, PA
Al Cohen, Dauphin, PA
Donna Cohen, Westmoreland, PA
Jenna Colby, Allegheny, PA
David Copper, Augusta, VA
Caroline Cotugno, Bucks, PA
Chelsea Cramer, Lycoming, PA
Dave Cramer, Westmoreland, PA
Jason Crawford, Lancaster, PA
Brinton Culp, Lancaster, PA
Adam Cumming, Allegheny, PA
Regina Curley, Chester, PA
Linda Cushner, Cumberland, PA
Arnold Cushner, Cumberland, PA
Patricia Dachille, Washington, PA
Paola DalleCarbonare, Westchester, NY
K. Danowski, Allegheny, PA
Carol Darr, Westmoreland, PA
Roger Day, Allegheny, PA
Ann de Vitry, Lancaster, PA
Darlene Dech, Allegheny, PA
Claudia Detweiler, Allegheny, PA
Megan Dill, Washington, PA
Megan Dinan, Beaver, PA
Kim Doan, Chester, PA
Karen Drickamer, Adams, PA
Susan Duffey, Washington, PA
Donna Dunn, Allegheny, PA
Allison Duratz, Washington, PA
Robert Edwards, Luzerne, PA
Patricia Eichman, Schuylkill, PA
Karen Elias, Clinton, PA
Kathleen Espamer, Cumberland, PA
Martha Evans, Allegheny, PA
Sherlene Evans, Berks, PA
Sarah Everett, United States, PA
Laura Fake, Berks, PA
Robert Fenstermaker, Lackawanna, PA
Karen Feridun, Berks, PA
Mark Fichman, Allegheny, PA
Margo Fittipaldo, Allegheny, PA
Lesley Fleckenstein, Allegheny, PA
Carol Fleischman M.D., Montgomery, PA
Sandra Folzer, Philadelphia, PA
Valeri Fornagiello, Tioga, PA
Kathy Fox, Northampton, PA
Rosemary Frain, Bucks, PA
Wayne K. Frank, Allegheny, PA
Bob Friedhoff, Wayne, PA
David Friedman, Allegheny, PA
Sharon Furlong, Bucks, PA
Park Furlong, Bucks, PA
Chris Galanos, Allegheny, PA
Croitiene n. gannMoryn, Marion, FL
Ron Gavalik, Allegheny, PA
Caitlyn Geist, Montgomery, PA
Barry George, Philadelphia, PA
Carolyn Gette, Centre, PA
Marilyn Giorgio-Poole, Westmoreland, PA
Eric Gjertsen, Berks, PA
Lynn Glorieux, Allegheny, PA
Sandra Goodwin, Wyoming, PA
Robert Gordon, Chester, PA
Gillian Graber, Westmoreland, PA
Karen Granche, Elk, PA
Kelly Greaves, Washington, PA
Kassandra Greaves, Washington, PA
Bernard Greenberg, Chester, PA
Susanne Groenendaal, Centre, PA
Ronald Gulla, Washington, PA
Borja Gutierrez, Centre, PA
Marta Guttenberg, Philadelphia, PA
Gretchen Gyrich, Allegheny, PA
Susan Haagen, Centre, PA
Jerry Haimowitz, Berks, PA
Lisa Hammers, Washington, PA
Emily Hammers, Washington, PA
Margaret Hamstead, Allegheny, PA
Louis Hancherick, Butler, PA
Andrew Handwerk, Lehigh, PA
Nancy Harkins, Chester, PA
Kathleen Harr, Bucks, PA
Kristy Hartman, Washington, PA
Lisa Hastings, Philadelphia, PA
Sydney Hausman-Cohen, Philadelphia, PA
Don Hawkins, Allegheny, PA
Bonita Hay, Montgomery, PA
Nancy Hemberger, Berks, PA
Bill Henry, Beaver, PA
Sue Hoag, Allegheny, PA
Tom Hocking, Lebanon, PA
Elisabeth Hoffman, Lancaster, PA
Sarah Hoover, Allegheny, PA
Judith A Horrell, Franklin, PA
Rob Hosken, Allegheny, PA
Joseph Bruce Huber, Westmoreland, PA
Mark Hudson, Allegheny, PA
Edward Hunt, Chester, PA
Heather E. Hunter, Centre, PA
Cynthia Hurney, Allegheny, PA
Christina Iacono, Delaware, PA
Kristine Irwin, Allegheny, PA
Kirsi Jansa, Allegheny, PA
Nora Johnson, Allegheny, PA
Jamie Johnson, Washington, PA
Grant Johnson, Washington, PA
Dyanne Jurin, Montgomery, PA
David Kagan, Lycoming, PA
James Keenan, Delaware, PA
Kate Kennedy, Berks, PA
Ned Ketyer, Washington, PA
Carolyn Kidder, Chester, PA
Melissa Kimak, Allegheny, PA
Brittani Kline, Clinton, PA
Cheryl Knight, Berks, PA
Kathleen Krebs, Allegheny, PA
Karen Kreller, Bucks, PA
Jill Kriesky, Allegheny, PA
Mary Krueger, Chester, PA
Leo Kucewicz, Phoenixville, PA
Craig Kushner, Washington, PA
Ashley Kushner, Washington, PA
Emiley Kushner, Washington, PA
Kelly Kuzemchak, Westmoreland, PA
Juanita LaBella, Allegheny, PA
Lisa Ladd-Kidder, Berks, PA
Deborah Larson, Allegheny, PA
Robin LaSon, Lancaster, PA
Barbara Laxon, McKean, PA
John Lee, Allegheny, PA
Marcia Lehman, Beaver, PA
Shelly Leichty, Washington, PA
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Carol Lippl, Allegheny, PA
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Ruth Logan, Bucks, PA
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Kristian Macoskey, Allegheny, PA
Lisa Madormo, Chester, PA
Joseph Magid, Montgomery, PA
Stephanie Martin, York, PA
Georgia Martin, Chester, PA
Roseann Martorana, Chester, PA
Douglas Mason, Centre, PA
Paige May, Luzerne, PA
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Susan McCarthy, Allegheny, PA
Mary McCloskey, Chester, PA
Brenda McCullough, Bucks, PA
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Evelina McGuigan, Bucks, PA
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Pamela Newhouse, Westmoreland, PA
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Alexander Noyle, Montgomery, PA
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Joan Pelc, Delaware, PA
Marta Pelusi, Allegheny, PA
Emily Petrucci, Delaware, PA
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Vincent Prudente, Philadelphia, PA
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Diane Quick, Berks, PA
Margaret Quinn, Chester, PA
Frank Quinn, Allegheny, PA
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Rachel Rakovan, Allegheny, PA
Sarah Rankin, Allegheny, PA
Jayne Rapp, Allegheny, PA
Vicki Rapp, Allegheny, PA
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Rose and Dan Reeder, Clinton, PA
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Kay Reinfried, Lancaster, PA
Abby Resnick, Allegheny, PA
Max Riben, Pike, PA
Raina Rippel, Washington, PA
Heriberto Rodriguez, Otsego, NY
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Kara Rubio, Allegheny, PA
David Runkle, Philadelphia, PA
Diane Rusch, Washington, PA
Mary Rush, Allegheny, PA
Gary Ryan, Bucks, PA
Elise Salahub, Lebanon, PA
Gina Samosky, Washington, PA
Thomas Samosky, Washington, PA
Chad Sample, Clinton, PA
Christina Samstag, Washington, PA
Arthur Satter, Wayne, PA
Carolin Schellhorn, Montgomery, PA
Marc Schermer, Allegheny, PA
Linda Schmac, Allegheny, PA
Michelle Schnelbach, Washington, PA
Brett Schultz, Berks, PA
Tanya Seaman, Philadelphia, PA
Betsy Sedney, Allegheny, PA
Lynsie Segeleon, Allegheny, PA
Tim Seitz-Brown, York, PA
Elizabeth Seltzer, Delaware, PA
Julie Shapiro, Philadelphia, PA
Robin Shaw, Westmoreland, PA
Mary Ann Sheldon, Montgomery, PA
Kate Sherman, Allegheny, PA
Jen Siskind, Hartford, CT
Victoria Smedley, Lycoming, PA
Dennis Smiddle, Washington, PA
Debra Smit, Allegheny, PA
Scott Smith, Allegheny, PA
Vicki Smith, Washington, PA
Donna Snyder, Berks, PA
Sofia, Bucks, PA
Patricia Sonne, Lehigh, PA
Cindy Spencer, Allegheny, PA
Christopher Stamm, Berks, PA
Michelle Stawowczyk, Washington, PA
Brenda Steckley, Schuylkill, PA
Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D., Tompkins, NY
Bonnie Stoeckl, Lancaster, PA
Margery Stone, Armstrong, PA
Aleta Streett-Leavy, Butler, PA
Christina Surowiec, Montgomery, PA
Jay Sweeney, Wyoming, PA
Desiree Tarr, Washington, PA
Arlene Taylor, Dauphin, PA
Aubrey Tissue, Allegheny, PA
Steve Todd, Cumberland, PA
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Barbara VanHorn, Perry, PA
Darlene K. Vila, Allegheny, PA
Corinne Vipperman, Allegheny, PA
Lauren Virgin, Westmoreland, PA
Shirley Wagner, Schuylkill, PA
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John Wahl, Washington, PA
Jennifer Wahl, Allegheny, PA
Jay Walker, Allegheny, PA
Mary Walsh, Allegheny, PA
Garret Wassermann, Allegheny, PA
David Way, Montgomery, PA
Mary Jo Weishampel, Berks, PA
Tracy Weiss, United States, PA
Tracy Weiss, Allegheny, PA
Ann Wenget, Lancaster, PA
Linda Wichmann, Beaver, PA
Sabrina Wojnarowski, Allegheny, PA
Debra Wontor, Pike, PA
Judith Woodruff, Berks, PA
Denise Yocco, Delaware, PA
Sarah Yourd, Allegheny, PA
Leah Zerbe, Schuylkill, PA
Faith Zerbe, Delaware, PA
Tara Zrinski, Northampton, PA

cc: Secretary Rachel Levine, Pennsylvania Department of Health
Secretary Patrick McDonnell, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Members, PA Senate
Members, PA House of Representatives