



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pennsylvania Mothers Applaud Governor Wolf's Pledge to Curb Methane

Harrisburg, PA – Today Pennsylvania mothers gathered in Harrisburg and called on Governor Tom Wolf to immediately honor his campaign promise and enact strong rules to cut air pollution from oil and gas operations. Nearly 50 parents and their children spoke at a press conference before a small group met with Secretary John Hanger.

“We are grateful that Governor Wolf is moving forward to cut the methane pollution from rampant fossil fuel extraction,” said Gretchen Dahlkemper, Pennsylvania mother and national field manager for Moms Clean Air Force. “I speak for mothers across Pennsylvania when I say that this industry cannot be allowed to continue to hurt our kids. The incidence of asthma attacks is reaching a crisis point in the Commonwealth and the issue of poor air quality in Pennsylvania is not restricted to the drilling regions. That this problem even exists is all the more galling when commonsense technologies are available today to address the problem of methane leaks. Unfortunately, the oil and gas industry refuses to act on methane in a meaningful way, and will not until it is compelled to do so.”

After the press conference, a small group of impacted families met with Secretary Hanger to share their concerns about the impact of air pollution on Pennsylvania’s children – especially at their schools. Each and every day, Pennsylvania’s children are exposed to harmful chemicals, such as benzene and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that leak from oil & gas operations. Benzene is linked to childhood leukemia. Pennsylvania mothers urged Governor Wolf to protect our children and place setbacks of at least 1-mile from schools and daycare centers.

“I speak from personal experience, and for many other impacted residents in southwestern Pennsylvania, when I say that the oil and gas operations are hurting our children, said Patrice Tomcik of Mars, PA. “Air pollution from fracking is pervasive yet producers appear more interested in drilling new wells than in changing their dangerous practices. Oil & gas operations are heavy industrial activities and our children deserve strong rules in place to protect their health and safety.”

Today’s announcement is an important step in protecting Pennsylvania’s children from fracking pollution but the issue doesn’t stop at the border. By moving forward with an ambitious methane rule, Pennsylvania can help set the standard for a national framework that will ensure states and industry are

operating on a level playing field and all citizens are being protected, no matter where they live. Today, Moms Clean Air Force applauds Pennsylvania's commitment to reduce fracking pollution, as it highlights a significant deficiency in the methane rules proposed by US EPA. The proposed EPA rules will apply only to newly constructed oil & gas operations across the country and ignores the hundreds of thousands of existing sources that are currently contributing to our massive methane problem. Pennsylvania mothers applaud Governor Wolf for protecting our families today and pledge to work with the Governor's office and DEP to enact rules that are protective of public health.

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Moms Clean Air Force is a community of moms and dads united against air pollution – including the urgent crisis of our changing climate – to protect our children's health. We arm members with reliable information and solutions through online resources, articles, action tools and on-the-ground events.

More here: <http://www.momscleanairforce.org/>