

Friends of the Harmed  
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shalefieldstories.org

June 30, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

We are writing to you on behalf of impacted residents from the oil and gas fields across our country and the communities whose resources are exploited to support it. We are here to ask you and ranking EPA officials to meet with our families to hear the personal testimonies -- how they have been harmed by the oil and gas industry, and how they have been abandoned by local, state, and federal agencies and officials.

Fracking, unconventional gas development, and its infrastructure has had detrimental impacts upon the American people, our health, our ecosystems and the climate. Families we work with live in constant fear, wondering where the next frack pit, well, compressor station or oil train will create another tragedy. We watch as another property is taken by eminent domain for a pipeline the community is against, and in most cases has not received the proper permits. We live without having a say in defining the character of our communities. The EPA, whose mission is "to protect human health and the environment," and our state officials and local agencies, have failed us by allowing these serious harms to our health and our environment, without acknowledging or correcting the problems we face.

Your administration often meets with fossil fuel executives to discuss subsidies, trade deals, and our energy system. It is well past time that you met with us, the everyday people living in the sacrifice zones, those who are most impacted by the sand mining, extreme extraction, transportation, burning, and disposal of oil and shale gas. We are people like:

- Dale and Maggie Henry, who cared for land that was in her family for 100 years. A gas well, pipeline, and a gas processing plant surrounding her property have ruined her organic farming business and destroyed her way of life. Mini earthquakes cracked her basement foundation and her chimney, and made the roof leak. The gas industry destroyed everything she and four generations of farmers spent their lives building. She, like so many others, are refugees to the fossil fuel industry and had to relocate from her beloved farm.
- Shirley and Jesse Eakin, senior citizens, who along with their neighbors, lost their water in 2008 after the once pristine Washington County park behind their house was drilled. Although they stopped drinking the water, they continued to bathe in it until serious

health issues, constant rashes and a tumor the size of a lime in Shirley's heart, forced their family get them a water buffalo.

- The parents and community members who are being threatened and sued for their effort to protect their children and keep well pads and pipelines away from their school, like the Mars Parent Group in Butler County, PA.
- The many indigenous communities, like the MHA Nation, who have had their treaties broken, their land destroyed, and their communities sickened by toxic fracking, while states like North Dakota take the majority of profit.
- Those who have to put their lives and bodies on the line everyday, at times risking arrest, by standing up and taking direct action to stop pipelines, storage facilities, injections wells, well pads and facilities that are polluting our environment.
- The industry workers that have been hurt or killed on the job and their families, who have suffered unbelievable loss.

There are thousands of true stories from people who have been negatively impacted by fracking and oil and gas infrastructure. We have documented many in our books, *Shalefield Stories Vol 1&2*. Oftentimes, the only lifelines these families have are small grassroots groups, like Friends of the Harmed, Gas Vets, Pennsylvanians Against Fracking, and those formed locally to protect the citizens and fight the industry's might. These burdens should not be the responsibility of these volunteer organizations, but rather our state and federal agencies which are elected and paid to hold the industry accountable. Our communities are being fractured, pitting neighbor against neighbor, with decreases in property values, increased cost of living, an influx of transient workers and violent crimes, drug abuse, and stress on social services. We need help.

Your trip to Flint, Michigan, the veto against the Keystone XL Pipeline, and recent statements around action on climate change show you care and understand people have a right to clean water, clean air, and a healthy planet. Please don't stop there. We respectfully ask you to come for a tour of the Marcellus Shale region to see first hand how the oil and shale gas industries are harming our residents and communities or to meet affected families at the White House. We know you will be in Philadelphia for the Democratic National Convention and so will we. Therefore, we can arrange for you to meet with many impacted families from across the country who will be there to participate in the March for a Clean Energy Revolution, happening on the eve of the convention on July 24th. Our families will join the thousands marching to call for a national ban on fracking and a just transition to a renewable energy economy.

You can take this opportunity to acknowledge fracking has not benefited all. For far too long, the fossil fuel industry has profited off of the exploitation of our communities and our resources. You can provide bold leadership and amplify this message to the DNC on our behalf. We kindly ask that you respond to our requests before the convention so we can make appropriate arrangements. Please, join us by using your power to insure a healthy future for the generations that will come after us.

You can choose to forge your legacy as the President that took a stand to end the climate crisis, or the President that had the chance to—but didn't.

Sincerely,  
The Friends of the Harmed and the undersigned Harmed,

Jill Anteres-Hunkler, Barnesville, Belmont County, OH  
“Negative health impacts including headaches, asthma-like symptoms, rashes, and insomnia.”

Edwin & Karen Atwood, Warren, PA  
“Our water well was contaminated by both drilling and hydrofracking.”

Michael Bagdes-Canning, Cherry Valley, Butler, PA  
“Flaring near my granddaughter caused a rash.”

Julie Barr, Vienna, Trumbull County, OH  
“Injection well spill next door, water, and air contamination.”

Georgann & Gary Baumgardner, Finleyville, Washington County, PA  
“Fracking and wells are 500 feet from our home. As a result of intermittent foul smelling air and constant vibration that we felt in bed, we had to move out of our home for approximately 4 months. None of our complaints were ever resolved. Our local Township officials were financially benefitting from the industry, and called us out as not telling the truth. I had a police officer visit our home at 3:30am due to the noise, vibration & odor. His statement, ‘No normal person could sleep in this house.’ If it made a difference, I would truly welcome to speak to someone who would stop in mind, the worst experience one could imagine.”

Michelle & Robert Beegle, Clearville, Bedford County, PA  
“Water contaminated, have health issues.”

Joletta Bird Bear, Mandaree, Dunn, North Dakota  
“The head federal agency BIA approved MHA tribal hydraulic fracturing of oil and gas in violence of the requirements of NEPA and allowed massive hydraulic drilling without the required EIS, resulting in exponential environmental harm to water, soil, air and all living systems on Fory Berthold Indian Reservation.”

Agnes Black, Largo, Pinellas County, FL

Debra & Robert M. Bologna, Windsor, CT  
“Four generation property threatened by a pipeline project, creating uncertain future, fearing eminent domain and can't sell property now. We fear a pipeline expansion will

bring unhealthy and possibly deadly elements to our immediate environment, in various forms.”

Jodi Borello, Washington, Washington County, PA

Lois Bower-Bjornson, Scenery Hill, Washington County, PA

“In a 1-3 mile radius there are 10 well compressor stations, 3 transmission lines, 28 wells encompass our home and neighbors, residuals wastes trucks 24 hours a day, 7 days a week leaking diesel fumes along with methane, toluene, benzene, etc., water from Bethlehem center school district w cancer causing agents- w.v.u. Study, Fort Cherry school district benzene exposed children, my 4 children have bulls eye rashes, exasperated eczema, bloody noses, noise, noise, noise, Goulding ponds being burned off, excessive flaring beyond 3 day period, nighttime spill clean up, ramping up of production do no one sees, hose being dumped into the Monongahela river, creeks, water being sold to industry from local municipalities, I know it's a long sentence & I could still go on, it's best if you visit us & my neighbors even the lease holders that are fed up.”

Emily Bowie, Burango, La Plata County, CO

“Air pollution from oil, gas, and coal.”

Vincent Brophy, Peekskill West, NY

“Old growth trees in our County Park destroyed.”

Edgar Brown, Naples, Ontario, NY

“I've been arrested twice for blockading gates to a storage facility to protect the largest of NY's Finger Lakes, drinking source for 100,000 people.”

Elouise Brown, NewComb, NM

“Water contamination, the odor from the fracking has caused health problems, lung problems and fracking has caused environmental pollution and contamination. The vegetation where our livestock graze and drink water has been contaminated by fracking. Our livestock is our food and eating contaminated livestock causes health problems.”

Asha Canalos, Minisink, Orange County, NY

“In 2011, we found out that a fracked-gas compressor station was to be built right next to our home and organic farm in Minisink, NY, and though we fought through legal actions for 4 years, we were forced to leave our home, jobs, and farm in 2014, after repeatedly getting ill from emissions, being terrified of an explosion, and losing an incredible amount of our financial resources in attempts to protect ourselves and our beautiful, productive farmland.”

Rachel Cecchini, Finleyville, Washington, PA

"I was pregnant while living 499 ft away from pad site. Fear for my child forced out of home, so I lived in hotel during 7-9 months of pregnancy."

Randi Cambers-Swearingen, Waynesburg, Greene County, PA

"Radiated water & destroyed roads."

Peyton Cambers, Waynesburg, Greene County, PA

"Dunkard Creek Fish Kill."

William Clark, Cebolla, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico

"Shallow shale fracking, here in the Rio Chama Watershed leads to the contamination of the potable water aquifers sitting immediately under the shale."

Donna Cooper, Clarksville, PA

"Drinking water pollutions."

Veronica Coptis, Carmichaels, Greene, PA

"Air & noise impacts from gas wells that are within 400 feet of my house."

Julia Trigg Crawford, Direct, Lamar, Texas

"Because TransCanada took our land for their pipeline, our Creek is threatened by their tarsands pipeline buried beneath the water, documented Caddo Indian artifacts were disturbed, and our property rights were violated as eminent domain was used for private gain."

Dana Dolney, Pittsburgh, PA

"Headaches, rashes, & neuropathy from exposure to venting and blowoff of Natural Gas."

Carl Donahoo, Scenery Hill, Washington County, PA

"Water is contaminated, pond is contaminated."

Shirley & Jesse Eakin, Avella, Washington County, PA

"Contaminated water and air; surrounded by wells, frack pits and flaring."

Tracey Ellison, Channelview

"My mother, Mother Earth, has been harmed by the methane released by fracking. Methane is more harmful to Mother Earth than Carbon Dioxide."

Sarita Farnelli, Dimock, Susquehanna County, PA

"Contaminated water and air, damage to physical health, loss of community."

Kim Farnelli, Arlington, Tarrant, TX

“Feil family alleged - rashes, nosebleeds HNSC cancer hair loss thinning hair short term memory loss. Child eyes dilated, lethargic.”

Bill Ferullo, Warren Center

“Air pollution and noise from close by wells.”

Ann Finneran, Hurleyville, NY

“Polluted waters and toxic waste into hometown.”

William Fisher, Waynesburg, Greene County, PA

Nora Gallardo, Plattekill, Ulster, New York

Donald Gardner, Hastings on Hudson, Westchester, NY

“Forced to spend my time organizing to stop the pipeline rather than contributing to more important work to help people.”

Michele Garman, Vienna, Trumbull County, Ohio

“Toxic waste injection well is being permitted to operate next to my home.”

Ellen Garhart, Huntingdon, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

“Three acres of woods, pond, streams, and wetlands have been clear-cut and threatened by Sunoco Logistics Mariner East 2 pipeline. Sunoco Logistics is under-reporting, or not reporting at all, wetlands and streams on our property.”

Juliane Gillette, Newtown, Mountrial, ND

“Repertory problems.”

Sabine & Mickey Gniadek, Union Township Washington, PA

“Asphyxiated by Methane and Chlorine Gases, & upper respiratory complications.”

Malkeh Goldstein, Elkins Park, Cheltenham Township, PA

“We will all be harmed if fracking continues and it destroys our environment.”

Yuri Gorby, Ballston Lake, NY

“My students and I developed headaches and I suffer from PTSD from scientific sampling trips to the gas fields of my home state of West Virginia.”

Susan Greene, North Weymouth, MA

“I live in the incineration zone along with thousands of others of the proposed Atlantic Bridge compressor station.”

Ron Gulla, Hickory, Washington, PA  
"My farm was polluted."

Bonnie Hall, New Martinsville, WV  
"My water well used for my livestock and myself was contaminated with chemicals."

Steve Halow, Waynesburg, Greene County, PA  
"Radiation, THMs, dust."

Louis Hancherick, Harmony, Butler County, PA  
"Contaminated water."

John and Linda Hanley, Cortlandt Manor, Westchester, NY  
"My home is in the sacrifice zone of the expanding AIM pipeline."

David, Linda, & Adam Headley, Spring Hill, Fayette County, PA  
"Split estate: surrounded by multiple leaking wells and a pipeline through property; lost water, poisoned air and have had serious health health issues for last 6 years."

Dale and Maggie Henry, Bessemer, Lawrence County, PA  
"The industry has made it impossible for me grow old while to raising my grandkids. I have lost everything!"

Catherine and Megan Holleran, New Milford, Susquehanna County, PA  
"The Constitution Pipeline took their row through our property by use of eminent domain, with no compensation as of yet, and cut through our entire sugarbush for our maple syrup business, eliminating hundreds of producing trees as well as forest habitat for wildlife."

Rachel Hopkinson, Vienna, Trumbull County, OH  
"A spill from an injection well across the street contaminated our pond killing fish, turtles and other wildlife. We are concerned about our well water which is are only source of water."

Rick Humphreys, Mannington, Marion County, WV  
"My property was trespassed, damaged, taken; neighbor relationships destroyed, and it continues to this day, 10 years later."

Marilyn Hunt, New Martinsville, Wetzel County, WV  
"Our air, water and land is poisoned."

Randolph Hurst, Slate Hill, Orange County, NY

“My wife and I both have health issues and all of our concerns and objections to the construction of a fracked gas power plant near our home have been dismissed by local, state and federal officials.”

Debaura James, Silver City, Grant Col, NM

“New Mexico is a sacrifice zone. Anyone who lives in this state, including me, has family or friends in the Mancos Shale region whose water has been seriously degraded and whose air is polluted by methane from flaring and off-gassing. The Four Corners region is home to an astounding number of cases of environmental health disasters.”

Maya Kasberg, Santa Barbara, CA

“I am a surfer and I will be swimming in fracked water in the SB channel.”

Barbara Kazyaka, Spencer, Tioga County, NY

“I have anxiety about the side effects from fracking.”

Janet Keating, Huntington

“My state’s precious water is withdrawn by oil and gas developers to “frack” sites.”

Ray Kemble, Montrose, Susquehanna County, PA

“I am an ex gas worker and I have bad water due to the gas drilling and fracking.”

Bill Kitchen, Johnstown, Fulton County, NY

“Climate change is decimating our moose population along its southern range.”

Lois Klotz, Warren Center, Bradford County, PA

“Our air and water were impacted.”

John Kuruca, Washington County, PA

“Loosing my home of 42 years due to slipping.”

Deirdre Lally, Benton, Columbia County, PA

“A gas well was drilled in my town and the fracking fluids were never recovered after the well drilling went bad, meaning they are somewhere underground near our water table now. When the well was flared I experienced neurological symptoms.”

Natasha Leger, Paonia, CO

“We have not yet been harmed, but are concerned about the potential for poisoning our organic garden and foodshed by proposals for oil and gas leasing on public lands in our watershed.”



Jenny Lisak, Punxsutawney, PA

“We have contaminated water and air. We lost pets, and lost value, safety and security in our home.”

Pramilla Malick, Westtown, Orange County, New York

“My family is assaulted with toxic emissions and loud noise as a result of an FERC approved interstate gas compressor station sited in my once pristine bucolic rural residential community, causing many of my neighbors to leave and many children along with my own, to get sick.”

Chris Marsh, Brownsville, Washington County, PA

“Experiencing the horror of seeing beautiful historic Washington County turned into an industrial zone.”

Suzanne Martin, Chesterfield, Burlington County, New Jersey

“They are placing a 36" high pressure gas transmission line less than 50 feet from my home. They are placing a compressor station less than a mile away. My well is in danger due to digging and seepage. My life is in danger because I will live in 2 blast zone and be forced to breath carcinogens and other harmful chemicals.”

Suzanne Matteo, West Middlesex, Lawrence, PA

“My township has over 70 fracked wells and two compressor stations changing the quality of our lives.”

Robert McCaslin, Bath, Steuben County, NY

“Polluted land and waterways along the Kalamazoo river.”

Fred and Jane McIntyre, Woodlands, Butler County, PA

“Contaminated water, unbreathable air, no help from officials.”

Christa Monette, Belcourt, North Dakota

“Acid Rain, climate change, drugs, loss of sense of safety, and crime have trickled into our already poor community caused by the oil boom.”

Jeanie and Edna Moten, Avella, Washington County, PA

“Water well contaminated and collapsed after fracking in a nearby park. Bad air quality.”

Randy Moyer, Portage, PA

“I am a former gas worker poisoned by exposures to chemicals and radiation.”

Brian Naeck, Swanzey, NH

Neffshade Family, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA

“Chemicals in the drinking water.”

Chava Neshar, Brooklyn, Kings County, NY  
"Harms comes to everyone from fracking."

Pat Pallas, San Francisco, CA  
"If the planet is harmed, so am I."

Barbara Parker, Sarver  
"I have been harmed by my friends well being contaminated."

Mary Perez, Weymouth, Norfolk County, MA  
"I am sick with stress at the thought of a compressor station being placed in Weymouth."

Vanessa Pesec, Concord, Ohio  
"My friends have been harmed."

James Root, Danbury  
"I live a few miles downwind from compressor station expansion."

Susan Ross, Indianapolis, Indiana

Rebecca Roter, Nicholson, Jackson County Georgia  
PA Shale Gas Refugee  
"I had documented impacts to my water, air and health."

Vera Scroggins, Brackney, PA  
"Air quality worsened and traffic impacts on roads and water quality where my grandchildren and daughter live."

Sam Sebren, Athens, Greene, NY  
"In the past 8 years I have worked tirelessly to stop fracking, at my own expense, often missing work and other obligations, and enduring immense depression over this issue still not being resolved by criminalizing fracking while I have met people in person whose lives have been ruined by fracking and their pain is my pain."

Erin Sethman, Imperial, Allegheny County, PA  
"Our home was surrounded by a massive gas processing facility; we had to leave our family home to protect our health."

Shafer Family, West Milford, NJ  
"We have family in the frack zone in Pennsylvania."

Tina Shannon, New Brighton

“My water authority had to switch from chlorine to chloramine, a much harsher & corrosive disinfectant because of treated water dumping and improper treatment.”

Diane Sipe, Evans City, Butler County, PA

“Wells and pipelines are within 1 mile of my home. My husband has been suffering with a skin rash that, although cannot be directly linked to the drilling, began near the time the first well went in about 1 1/4 miles away. Our secondary school campus with 4,000 students and staff is now situated 1.1 miles from a huge gas processing plant. The health and safety of my community is compromised, and accordingly in an area where contingent municipalities are experiencing expansion and increased property values, my township has decreasing property values.”

Jennifer Siskind, South Glastonbury, CT

“I no longer visit my 83 year old mother in Lycoming County, PA who has gas wells, a huge compressor station and a CNG station nearby her property, as I have an autoimmune illness and can't risk being exposed to toxins. The closest well is 2,000 ft away and violations occurred during drilling, including contaminating the aquifer.”

Wayne and Angel Smith, Clearville, Bedford County, PA

“We experienced water contamination, our animals died, and impacted our health.”

Rebecca Sobel, Sante Fe, NM

“Climate change poses the ultimate harm.”

Craig Stevens, Montrose, Susquehanna County, PA

“I experienced a creek blowout during pipeline installation and my water was impacted by local gas drilling.”

RV Stolfer, Washington, PA

“The neighbor's frackpit leaked for 2 years, I developed a rash, got hospitalized.”

Keith Tarbi, Sarver, Butler, Pennsylvania.

“Turbidity incident when a nitrogen flush was performed.”

Beiter & Christopher Thomas, Waynesburg, Greene County, PA

“Loss of recreation Ryerson Station State Park and other places across our county.”

Victoria Trinko, Bloomer, Chippewa, Wisconsin

“Within 10 months of a silica sand mine operating across the road from my farm, I developed asthma.”

Sherri Turner, Granville Summit, PA

“We were poisoned and got very ill and had to leave our home.”

Nancy Vann, Peekskill, Westchester, NY

“Our land was taken by eminent domain for a fracked gas pipeline that cut down hundreds of trees and ruined our wetlands.”

Marth Veselka, Chesterfield, Burlington County, NJ

“Wetlands which charge the aquifer that feeds my well are being compromised at McGuire Dix Joint Base, a proposed pipeline is going through a superfund site, the transmission pipeline is within 100 ft of over 100 residences wells, some shallow. The proposed compressor station is in a residential area.”

Beth Voyles, Washington, PA

“Not only has our health been impacted but the children who are our future. Our animals whether for pets or consumption. Our air our water. I can go on and on. And you may not be in the middle of this to be affected you really are. You consume food and water and air as well as your family.”

Cathy Wallace, Irving, Dallas, TX

“I moved from my house due to frackquakes.”

Katherine Webb, West Chester, PA

“My college increased in crime and deaths due to the fracking industry.”

Kenneth Weir, Munhall, PA

Gerri Wiley, Ostwego, NY

“I quit my paid job as a public health nurse to help ban fracking in my town, region, and New York State because we were being lied to and threatened by the shale gas industry and our health, safety, and welfare were/are at stake.”

Cedar Wilkie Gilette, New Town, Mountrail, North Dakota (MHA Nation)

“I am from the fracked MHA Nation in North Dakota and have seen firsthand the appalling lack of federal and tribal action to prevent, mitigate, and enforce regulations on the oil industry that not only affects the land, air, and water but also the people who are getting ill from the non-stop natural gas flaring and poor air quality in general, but also the 121% increase of violence since 2012 and lack of tribal jurisdiction for violence against indigenous women from non-native oil-related industry people entering our reservation.”

Courtney Williams, Peekskill, Westchester County, NY

“My home and my children's school will be 400ft from a massive gas pipeline.”

Wood Family South Rockwood, MI

“A frack sand mine 300 feet away from our house in the country, breathing silica dust.”

Jerry Yeager, Lake Lynn Fayette, PA

“We no longer breathe the same air quality that we have in the past. We do not have the peace and quiet we moved here to have.”