

April 4, 2019

**Via Electronic Mail**

Honorable Scott Perry  
Deputy Secretary for Oil and Gas Management  
16th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building  
400 Market Street  
PO Box 2063, Harrisburg 17105-2063

Dear Mr. Perry,

We are very concerned to see that you are listed as a speaker at the Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association's upcoming spring meeting entitled Paving the Way: Real Solutions for Continued Expansion and call on you to cancel your appearance. PIOGA's website says the meeting "will shine a light on the challenges while offering the industry real solutions to continued expansion for all facets of the oil and gas industry." Of additional concern is PIOGA's choice of Don Watkins, Director of Education for the Center for Industrial Progress whose talk, "The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels" is taken from the book by the same name, authored by CIP's founder, Alex Epstein.

Epstein is a philosopher and past fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute who says his organization's mission is to inspire Americans to embrace industrial progress as a cultural ideal. Here are two excerpts from CIP's mission statement.

"America's industrial progress has been declining, and with it, our economy—in large part thanks to the influence of the 'green' movement, which has opposed industrial progress in the name of minimizing man's impact on nature. At the Center for Industrial Progress (CIP), we celebrate man's impact on nature, just as our ancestors celebrated Americans' ability to 'tame a continent.' We celebrate the never-ending project of the industrial revolution: to harness more and more energy to feed machines that do more and more work to make our lives better and better."

"As for pollution, so long as we embrace policies that protect property rights, including air and water rights, we protect industrial development and protect individuals from pollution. By contrast, 'green' policies do not improve the human environment, but sacrifice it to the non-human—just ask anyone trying to build an industrial project today. For too long, Americans have taken industrial progress for granted, and carelessly embraced 'going green' as an ideal—expecting that the unprecedented standard of living we had would automatically continue, even though we permitted environmentalists to oppose new energy production and new development at every turn. Today, we are paying the price, with an economy whose productive fundamentals are less and less sound."

Watkins is another former fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute who also serves as a policy advisor to the Heartland Institute.

Last month, one of Watkins' Heartland colleagues, Gregory Wrightstone, discussed his self-published book of unsubstantiated assertions about climate change at the House Environmental Resources and Energy committee meeting at the invitation of its climate-denying chair, Daryl Metcalfe. Governor Wolf was critical of the meeting, stating, "We've seen the impacts of climate change with our own eyes. Using

a taxpayer-funded hearing to minimize this threat is a waste of time. We need action, not a debate over this fact.”

You work for the Department of Environmental Protection. It is outrageous that you would agree to participate in a pro-fossil fuel event under any circumstances, but absolutely insupportable that you would attend in your official capacity. It is an inappropriate use of taxpayer dollars and gives the event credibility it doesn't deserve. Cancel your appearance at PIOGA's spring meeting.

Respectfully,

Karen Feridun, Co-founder, Better Path Coalition

Karen Feridun, Founder, Berks Gas Truth

Arianne Elinich, Founder, Bucks County Concerned Citizens Against the Pipelines

Sharon Furlong, Spokesperson, Bucks County Sierra Club

Sharon Furlong, Spokesperson, Bucks Environmental Action

Ellen Gerhart, Co-founder, Camp White Pine

Anita Forrester, Leader, Climate Reality Project - Lehigh Valley PA Chapter

Barbara Laxon, Defend Ohi:yo'

Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Maya van Rossum, Founder, For the Generations

Brook Lenker, Executive Director, FracTracker Alliance

Leatra Harper, FreshWater Accountability Project

Ellen Gerhart, Co-founder, Juniata Watershed People Before Pipelines

Tim Spiese, Board President, Lancaster Against Pipelines

Ann Pinca, President, Lebanon Pipeline Awareness

Michael Bagdes-Canning, Planning Group, Marcellus Outreach Butler

Craig L. Stevens, Founder, Patriots From The Oil & Gas Shales

Walter Tsou, Executive Director, Philadelphia Physicians for Social Responsibility

Barbara Jarmoska, President, Project CoffeeHouse

Robert Cross, President, Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA)

Laurie Barr, Co-founder, Save Our Streams PA

Richard Williams, Director, Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network

Rebecca Britton, Founder, Uwchlan Safety Coalition

Jay Sweeney, Chair, Wyoming County Green Party

cc: Governor Tom Wolf

Secretary Patrick McDonnell