

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

April 1, 2014

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

Recent technological developments have led to an oil and gas boom that has brought us closer to energy independence, created jobs, lowered fuel prices, and generated incredible profits for oil and gas companies. However, a patchwork of state regulations, exemptions from many of our federal environment laws and a lack of enforcement have forced communities living in and near to heavily drilled areas to pay the price for this boom. Water contamination is just one of the impacts felt by communities across the country, from Texas to Pennsylvania.

While we appreciate that states act as the major source of regulation for unconventional drilling operations, we believe the Environmental Protection Agency has a key role to play in oil and gas development. Despite the industry's exemptions from some of our bedrock environmental laws, the EPA does have the power to help ease the burden of directly impacted communities.

Pavillion, Wyoming, Dimock, Pennsylvania and Parker County, Texas have all experienced the negative impacts of an under regulated drilling industry first hand. Each community was grateful when the EPA stepped in to help deal with their water contamination issues, and disheartened when the EPA stopped their investigations, leaving them with polluted water and little explanation.

We are writing to urge you to take any and all steps within your power to help these communities. The EPA was established to hold states accountable and guarantee baseline protection for the American public and shared environment, and these families deserve that protection. Members of these communities currently do not have safe, clean drinking water and need EPA's help to address the ongoing water contamination issues in their homes and get EPA assurance once their water is clean and safe.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal

Alan Lowenthal
CA-47

Jared Huffman

Jared Huffman
CA-02

Raul M. Grijalva

Raul M. Grijalva
AZ-03

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