

June 26, 2020

The Honorable Josh Shapiro
Attorney General of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General
1600 Strawberry Square, 16th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Attorney General Shapiro,

The Better Path Coalition is a statewide coalition led by frontline and grassroots groups fighting shale gas development in Pennsylvania. Many of our members have been profoundly impacted or have worked on the ground with affected communities for years. Among our members are people who provided testimony to the Grand Jury. We are grateful to you for the action you have taken to call out our state government for its failure to protect the people. We would like to meet with you to discuss our Coalition's top five concerns and suggestions.

Best use of the hotline reporting system you announced

We understand that the last recommendation in the Grand Jury report is to provide your office original jurisdiction over unconventional oil and gas companies. We believe that use of the reporting system you established to provide transparency about the current process would be beneficial in accomplishing that end. For instance, the public would benefit from knowing what happens to the complaints filed with district attorneys and the DEP, including speed of response and results. If citizens are encouraged to make complaints via the existing avenues and follow-up by contacting your office via the hotline or by email, your office would be able to track and report that information to the public.

Termination of non-disclosure agreements

Pennsylvanians deserve to have the full story of shale gas development's impacts. We would like existing unconscionable agreements terminated, allowing impacted Pennsylvanians to speak freely. We would also like to see a prohibition on the use of non-disclosure agreements going forward. The impacts concern the public at large and non-disclosure agreements impede the public's right to know.

Department of Health investigations

The report mentions the literature review that DOH conducted last year with their counterparts in Colorado. Governor Wolf cited the review when telling us he would [not launch an investigation](#) into the spike in rare cancers in young people in four southwestern counties. The SWPA Environmental Health Project did a [thorough critique](#) of a very flawed review. In November, families of young people who had died from or are battling rare cancers confronted Governor Wolf. Days later, he announced that the state would do two studies. Peer-reviewed research takes time that families in SWPA don't have. We have grave concerns that the state used a flawed review to avoid taking swift action on a public health crisis. Furthermore, even when pressed for action, the only response was to order studies that may turn out to be as flawed as the review published last year. What role will you play in

seeing that swift action is taken to address this crisis and the myriad other health impacts that can't wait?

Criminal activity by the government

The Grand Jury report concludes with recommended changes that can be made to the laws and regulations applicable to shale gas development and oversight of the industry. They did not recommend criminal charges, yet the activities described are criminal acts that violate our constitutional rights under Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania constitution. We believe criminal charges should be brought against our government.

Halt to permitting

In our June 17 [letter](#) to Governor Wolf, we noted that the companies already brought up on charges are still receiving drilling permits. We called on the governor to halt further permitting. The Governor has not responded to our letter. The systemic failures the Grand Jury cited in its report only underscore the need for a halt. We call on you to support our demand.

We look forward to meeting with you at your earliest convenience. We will contact your office to follow up on this meeting request.

Respectfully,

The Better Path Coalition
Planning Group

Karen Feridun, Berks Gas Truth

Rachel Mark, Better Path Coalition

Arianne Elinich, Bucks County Concerned Citizens Against the Pipelines

Sharon Furlong, Bucks Environmental Action

Tim Spiese, Lancaster Against Pipelines

Ann Pinca, Lebanon Pipeline Awareness

Michael Bagdes-Canning, Marcellus Outreach Butler

Diane Sipe, Marcellus Outreach Butler

Tammy Murphy, Physicians for Social Responsibility PA

Barbara Jarmoska, Project CoffeeHouse