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March 30, 2021

Mr. Patrick McDonnell, Secretary
Department of Environmental Protection
16th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Secretary McDonnell:

I am writing today to concur with my colleagues on the Pennsylvania Climate Caucus in their call for a stronger draft methane rule. As Democratic chairman of the Health Committee, I see overwhelming and ever-expanding evidence of the devastating effects of industrial pollution and climate change on our bodies and our planet. With this rule, Pennsylvania has the opportunity to protect the public health and show the world how to materially regulate the fossil fuel industry while we work to rapidly build up green energy sources.

As written, the draft rule would exempt low-producing wells from performing leak detection and repair measures, and it would allow operators to reduce the frequency of their inspections based only on how many components are found to be leaking emissions on site. Together, these two openings would allow more wells than not to go largely unregulated.

This one rule holds an outsized influence on this Commonwealth's air quality, and I feel strongly that we must not pass up this chance to meaningfully protect our residents and move us toward the goals outlined in Governor Wolf's January 2019 executive order.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan B. Frankel".

Dan B. Frankel
State Representative
23rd Legislative District