

Hello Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today.

My name is Ingrid Moore, I'm from Longmont and I am representing myself. I am here to Support House Bill -1256.

This is a reasonable bill that seeks to clarify the current legal setback distances from schools and day care centers, places where children of all ages spend a large portion of their time.

There is a growing body of peer-reviewed science that provides significant evidence of the public health risks of oil and gas development. The two main risks are explosions and pollution of air and water.

As far as explosions, earlier this year Sen. [Sonnenberg](#) introduced SB 35, claiming that tampering with well equipment is **so dangerous to public safety** that a severe penalty should be imposed.

Yet, at the same time, the industry argues that the wells are safe enough to locate close to schools and day care centers. There **is** no scientifically-defined setback distance that is deemed safe from the impacts of oil and gas development. What independent research says is that the distance should be at least a 1/2 mile, or, even better, a mile for the fewest negative effects. Common sense says - the further, the better.

Explosions have occurred that spread over distances of up to 2,000 ft. These can be triggered by something as common and unpreventable as lightning. These can happen without warning. Evacuations are often necessary, causing enormous disruption and trauma.

As far as pollution, there is direct evidence that leaks of gas and chemicals occur. Unhealthy levels of benzene and formaldehyde have been found near wells. Infrared images of seemingly clear skies show methane plumes spreading out over large areas. *(I have attached some images showing methane plumes visible with an infra-red camera – I urge you to take a look at them)*

Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution's effects. Their lungs are still developing. The lining of their lungs is especially permeable. Compared to adults, children breathe 50% more air for their body weight. Exposure to air pollution as a child can have lasting effects into adulthood. Additionally, children tend to spend more time outdoors, so they are breathing more outdoor air compared to adults.

This bill proposes very reasonable clarifications to the current legal setback distances from schools and day care centers. It appears to be a good faith attempt to strike a

reasonable compromise that the industry **should** be able to live with. As policy-makers, you have the responsibility to consider the safety of children ahead of corporate profits.

In the interest of public safety and the protection of our children, I strongly urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you.

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"Fracking near schools"

Opinion - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, August 23, 2015

<http://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/Op-Ed/2015/08/24/Fracking-near-schools-DEP-fails-to-keep-drillers-a-healthy-distance-from-children/stories/201508240030?pgpageversion=pgevoke>

*"Research in Colorado showed that residents living less than or equal to one-half mile away from gas wells are at higher risk of respiratory, neurological and other health impacts and have a higher lifetime risk for cancer than those who live at farther distances. Two times as many residents in Pennsylvania living less than 1 kilometer (0.6 of a mile) from gas wells have reported more respiratory symptoms per person than those living 1 to 2 km or more than 2 km away."*

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Greeley Tribune, March 7, 2016  
<http://www.greeleytribune.com/news/local/greeley-fire-department-learns-several-lessons-in-its-first-big-test-in-oil-gas-firefighting/#>

The fire was sparked by the most natural of acts, a lightning bolt that struck a waste-water-injection tank. Waste water is flammable.

What happened next was like watching a boiling teapot on a stove. The flames snuck beneath the tanks, heating the water inside. All such tanks are equipped with valves to release vapors when pressures get high. In this case, the pressure valves couldn't keep up, and the tanks subsequently exploded, shooting up hundreds of feet into the air.

"We could feel that on the ground," Lyman said, "and we were 1,000 feet away. That was very scary."

"Then we started thinking about adjacent properties and the nearest homes," Lyman said, "so we started evacuating."

Typical evacuations go up to a half-mile away. The nearest house was 459 feet away, not even a tenth of a mile.

After that first tank exploded, they knew there were another two or three tanks on site that would do the same.



Supposedly clear skies



same scene viewed with infra-red camera



Infra-red images

