

Lisa Johnson & Associates
Attorneys and Advisors

December 18, 2021

Via email at Title_VI_Complaints@epa.gov

Merrick B. Garland, Attorney General of the United States
Michael S. Regan, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
c/o U.S. EPA External Civil Rights Compliance Office (2310A)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave.
NW Washington, D.C. 20460

Re: Complaint of Discrimination U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's External Civil Rights Compliance Office ("ECRCO") **Ex. (6), 7(C)** *Appellants, v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection, Appellees, (2021 EHB 013).*

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I represent **Ex. (6), 7(C)** and **Ex. (6), 7(C)** (jointly and severally, ("**Landowners**")). The purpose of this letter is to file a complaint of civil rights violations ("**Complaint**") by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection, Governor Tom Wolf and Lt. Governor John Fetterman. Landowners requested an investigation into their water supply to the DEP on January 7, 2020, almost two years ago, resulting in permanent damages **Ex. (6), 7(C)** and the environment. We request that the EPA and DOJ read through the exhibits to this letter to better understand the widespread constitutional violations by this administration resulting in grave harms to landowners in general and the environment. Landowners

Ex. (6), 7(C)

My clients have met the following requirements to file an ECRCO civil rights complaint ("**Complaint**") against the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection ("**PADEP**"), Governor Tom Wolf and Lt. Governor John Fetterman:

1. All contact related to the Complaint or otherwise shall be made through counsel using the contact information below;
2. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is the entity that committed and continues to commit discrimination of Landowners' civil rights;

¹Ex. (6), 7(C)

3. PADEP discriminated against Ex. (6), 7(C) by denying, obstructing, delaying, intimidating and retaliating against my clients, which is prohibited under Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Among other things, Landowners Ex. (6), 7(C) Ex. (6), 7(C) affected by such discrimination (*specific examples are described more fully in Exhibits A through E enclosed with this letter*)²; and

4. PADEP and this administration's civil rights violations are ongoing; therefore this complaint is made within 180 days of civil rights' violations.

Landowners are outspent and outstaffed by PADEP and oil and gas operators³ and desperately need the oversight of the EPA. Governor Tom Wolf and Lt. Governor participated as PADEP worked in concert with oil and gas operators resulting in, among other things, the violations of my clients' civil rights and widespread, unabated pollution. Landowners will be requesting investigations into the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, each of which are complicit in the civil rights violations of Landowners and those yet to come.⁴

Please let us know if we need to send additional information or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lisa Johnson

Lisa Johnson, Esq.

PA ID 200101

Counsel for Ex. (6), 7(C) and Ex. (6), 7(C) and Ex. (6), 7(C)

Lisa Johnson and Associates

10675 Perry Highway #8

Wexford, PA 15090

cc: Pennsylvania Attorney General Joshua D. Shapiro, Esq.
(*via email and First-Class Mail*)

² The Department's inaction on the Appellants' water supply complaint undoubtedly does real harm to the Appellants. Should the Department need a reminder, its inaction here is not merely taking its time to review a permit application and possibly delaying a project, but it is a daily deprivation of usable water to ordinary citizens of the Commonwealth. See Ex. (6), 7(C) v. Commonwealth, PA DEP, 2021 EHB 049, DKT 17).

³ Coterra Energy, f/k/a Cabot Oil and Gas Company and Southwestern Energy

⁴ See Article I, Section 27, Pennsylvania's Environmental Rights Amendment, which states: The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.