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Gillette, WY 82716

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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director
Environmental Quality Council

Mark Gordon, Chairman
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council
122 W. 25th St.
Herschler Bldg., Room 1714
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Mr. Gordon:

It has come to my attention that the Citizen Petition for Rulemaking, Powder River Basin Resource Council, is proposing that water from coalbed methane wells be prohibited. I am concerned about the effects this would have on my employment, my employers, my community and my state.

My husband and I adopted Gillette, WY as our home over 25 years ago. We have raised our children here and now our grandchildren are growing up in our chosen community. I have been employed by the coalbed methane industry since 2003. I began as an employee of Western Gas Resources and now am an employee of Anadarko Petroleum Company. I am the administrative assistant for the drilling department.

My employment provides income and benefits for my husband and myself that we have not had before. We have struggled over the years to afford a modest home and transportation. We are approaching the time in our lives when we must plan for retirement. My employment in the CBM industry has provided insurance and enough money to begin saving for retirement. I was diagnosed with cancer last year and was able to have the treatment necessary for recovery and remission. This would not have been possible without the insurance provided by the company.

The coalbed methane industry provides employment for many families in the community and the benefits that might not be available otherwise. Many people have come to our community from other parts of the country where employment is depressed. We have watched our city grow and change through the years of energy development. The coalbed methane development boom has brought challenges for the school system, medical care, businesses and housing but it is all a part of the future for Gillette. This growth brings the need for the expansion of the hospital, the fire department, the Park & Recreation Department and the Complex. Gillette's growth is certainly beneficial to the region and the state. If this proposal were to proceed it would virtually eliminate the need for more doctors, the expansions of the various departments and the influx of future residents.

As I understand it, the petition the PRBRC is proposing is to change Wyoming water quality rules in regard to coalbed methane water. The restrictions of WQD chapter 2 would prohibit the discharge of the water to the surface. Prohibiting the production of water from wells would mean there would be no production of gas and ultimately no revenue. This would effectively

shut down the industry leaving hundreds unemployed, causing loss of homes and benefits. An exodus of workers leaving the state would be an economic hardship for Wyoming.

Water management and government regulation by the Department of Environmental Quality and the industry is not disregarded. There are clearly sets solutions and they are followed in order to meet standards. Landowners are a part of the decision making process and enjoy the benefits of the water for livestock and wildlife.

I understand that there are problems that some individuals have regarding industry development but changing water quality rules will not fix these problems. There are options that can resolve issues that arise. It is not beneficial to the whole of the region for a few to have precedence.

I am opposed to this petition for the obvious reasons of the effect it will have on my life and my community.

Thank you for allowing me to share with you my concerns and for your careful consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Judith Van Zee