

Mr. Mark Gordon, Chairman  
Wyoming Environmental Quality Council  
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By Fax and Hard Copy

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Terri A. Lorenzon, Director  
Environmental Quality Council

My name is Cassidy Westbrook. I was born in Laramie, Wyoming in 1977. I lived on the Miller Ranch outside of Laramie and then moved to the 91 ranch, a 36000 acre ranch, outside of Meeteetse, Wyoming, where my father managed the ranch. I know first hand what it is like to need water in the ranching industry. I watched my father struggle to keep water open during the winters for his cattle. I see the fields and stock tanks currently filled with CBM water and the livestock and wildlife that drink it. I imagine the benefit my father would have seen from CBM. The flow and temperature of CBM water keeps it from freezing in the winter, and landowners have a new ability to get water to remote locations, reservoirs and stock tanks due to the ability of CBM operators to discharge water.

I was raised and continue to live in the state of Wyoming. I currently live in Gillette with my wife Shanna and two children, Payton, age 5, and Hailey, age 1. I have lived and worked in Gillette for nearly four years. I am very grateful for the opportunities that the Coal Bed Methane Industry has brought to my family. I have been lucky enough to be able to have a job that has allowed my family to buy a home and have a high quality of living. I work in the industry in regulatory compliance and I deal first hand with the waters that are produced by CBM fields and the regulatory compliance that we as an industry are currently required to meet.

I also know there is a need to regulate the industry, and to discharge water in an intelligent and moral manner. I feel that there are regulations that require industry to do this already and I have seen these discharges in action. I have also talked with happy and sometimes grateful landowners with these discharges. I am not so blind as to think that there are not problems in an industry like this. These problems need to be addressed, but not by effectively shutting down the entire industry. Cooperation between landowners, government and industry are required to be successful. Regulations and rules are without a doubt necessary to land owners and to industry for them to co-exist.

As I drove home from work last night, I tried to find a business or person that was not directly influenced by the financial impact of CBM. I was not able to find a single business or think of a single person that does not partially or wholly depend on CBM. I thought about the people that do not work in the industry that will be affected. I thought of the many friends that I have met since moving here four years ago, who have become a part of our life. I have friends in the real estate industry and I think about the impact a rule change such as brought by the Powder River Business Resource Council would have on their livelihood. Without the industry, the housing market would drop and suddenly there would be too many apartments not enough demand. I have friends in the insurance business that have stated that approximately 85% of their business is driven by workers and businesses in the CBM industry. I also have a friend who runs an auto dealership in Gillette. I know that the workers and fields in this area keep his business running, from

purchasing new vehicles for companies and workers buying personal vehicles with the salaries they make in the industry. I see company vehicles with dealer tags from places like Casper, showing me that Gillette is not the only community that will be affected. This rule change would have a statewide affect. Not only will this affect business opportunities, this will also affect recreation. The Bell knob golf course in Gillette is where I like to spend my summer weekends, as much as possible. Bell Knob Golf Course has a pond filled with a discharge from a nearby CBM well. This pond is a beautiful feature of the golf course and is filled with birds, muskrats and countless numbers of my golf balls. I can live without losing my golf balls, but would sorely miss the recreational beauty of the water on the golf course. I have many other friends in all walks of life in Gillette and the surrounding area that will be impacted negatively by this rule change.

This proposed rule change would undoubtedly require the company I work for to shut down a very large majority (up to 99%) of our discharges, resulting in shutting down the wells. Without these wells there is no revenue and the operating companies will pull up their stakes and look to other areas and states where producing the gas is economical and possible. The financial impact of these companies leaving our communities and our state would be enormous and personally catastrophic. While the PRBRC may think that a rule change like this is good for the state and the land owners, I doubt that they have thought past the industry themselves and into the lives of those who don't work in the industry, but rely upon it. Please consider these people and businesses when deciding on a rule such as this.

Sincerely,



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