

MS. CYPHERS:

Good afternoon. My name is Jane Cyphers. I'm a founding member of Damascus Citizens for Sustainability, a landowner in Rileyville, Pennsylvania, and a proud American.

I've been teaching young children for 29 years. The value of good health as a prerequisite for learning cannot be underestimated. Children who struggle from ailments from specific developmental, neurologic, cognitive, and physical problems are at a disadvantage.

Peer reviewed research shows the children who live near fracking sites suffer health and learning impacts from air and water contamination as well as from stress. Concerned Health Professionals of New York State that living near drilling and fracking operations significantly increases asthma attacks.

According to a Johns Hopkins University study of 35,000 medical records, those who lived near a higher number of active

gas wells were one and a half to four times more likely to suffer from asthma attacks compared to those who live further away. With the closest group having the highest risk.

Fracking drives ozone and other federally regulated air pollutants to levels that violate air quality standards. This increased air pollution and smog formation poses a serious risk to all of those already suffering from respiratory issues such as children with asthma.

Exposure to ozone particulate matter, silica dust, benzene and formaldehyde, all of which are associated with drilling and fracking operations, are linked to adverse respiratory health effects, particularly in infants and children.

Speaking from the point of view of one who has suffered with asthma their entire life due to chemical exposure at an early age, I don't speak lightly. My brother was also exposed and he died from an asthma attack at the young age of 37 leaving three young boys behind.

Moving on, a 2015 study found a 40 percent increase in the risk of preterm births among infants born to mothers who live near active drilling and fracking sites in Pennsylvania. A Yale University Research team reported that carcinogens involved in fracking operations have a potential to contaminate both air and water in nearby communities in ways that may increase the risk of childhood leukemia.

These contaminants are in the wastewater also. Children should be able to live free from chemical contaminants in the air they breathe and the water they drink. I support the do no harm principle. I also support ban in the basin, and I support a ban of all importation of wastewater. Thank you for your time.