

Hi Neighbor,

My name is laZae. I was raised in Penn Township, where I now help my mother, Carole, take care of her acreage. Growing up here, I cultivated a relationship with this land that was historically mined for coal—parts of which were dumping ground for a variety of materials over the years, including modern petrochemical products. Most of this property is forested by a biodiverse fabric of primarily deciduous trees and unique ecosystems in ecological recovery. My mom and I love hearing the cacophony of birdsong through the spring, being overwhelmed by the sheer number of magical fireflies in the summer, watching the deer graze and gallop, and having the thrilling fortune of catching the occasional calls of owls at dusk and dawn.

Immersing myself in the multidimensionality of nature has become my happy place. This is why I am passionate about preserving and enhancing wildlife spaces and corridors. What many people fail to realize is that humans are wildlife too, and we need large, connected swaths of healthy biodiverse environments to thrive and to truly appreciate the many forms of life with which we share this planet.

The land I love so dearly is in danger of being poisoned by the petrochemical industry.

At the Quarry Sanctuary in Jeannette—a former stone quarry now owned by my mom—we are navigating challenges from multiple types of gas infrastructure plaguing the land. These include a gas well pad with a brine tank heavily venting emissions, an old low-pressure regulator station (with plans for this to be greatly expanded, which will include the felling of mature trees), an old distribution gas pipeline (soon to be decommissioned and left in place), and multiple transmission pipelines (part of the Mariner East project), which also cut through the neighbors' yards adjacent to the property and scar the surrounding hillsides.

Seeing all the destruction, Mom and I were motivated to connect with Protect PT because of gas company plans to expand an existing regulator station at the Quarry Sanctuary. The plan requires an additional 1,300 square foot easement, which the gas company began the court process of taking through eminent domain.

Since the increase in gas development over the last several years, I have observed changes in our landscape that have directly impacted the wildlife with whom we share the land.

When we called Protect PT regarding the regulator station situation, Community Advocate, Jim, immediately agreed to meet with me and review the documents sent to my mom. He then recommended that she obtain legal representation and referred us to a local attorney specializing in environmental law. Thanks to Jim's guidance, Mom and I are now working with an incredible attorney who is representing us in negotiations with the gas company regarding the regulator station.

Then, Protect PT's Environmental Scientist, Yvonne, met with my family and representatives from the gas company to discuss the proposed (and alternative) plans for a new regulator station. During this visit, we all smelled the strong odor of gas, which Yvonne noted was likely coming from the old gas well. With her guidance, I reported the situation to the PA Department of Environmental Protection.

In addition to all the personal assistance Protect PT has done for me and Mom, their community events have been equally valuable. This summer, I attended Protect PT's highly informative, free training: Living Near Shale Gas Workshop, which includes a complimentary Home Resource Guide binder (and lunch!). I would encourage everyone within our area to attend this training workshop.

Protect PT was there for my mom and me when we truly needed them. We didn't have to do it alone.

Without Protect PT, Mom and I would not be connected to our local network of environmental stewards, who tirelessly work to protect our homes and communities—particularly from the negative impacts of unconventional gas development. As I continue to learn more about Protect PT's efforts, I am continuously inspired by their amazing work.

Protect PT is also part of a wider movement that shows up for each other across geographies. We are learning to embrace our humanity, conquer our divides, and work together to create solutions. As this network of environmental activists continues to grow, we are remembering how to live in harmony with a wilder nature to deeply treasure and safeguard clean air and clean water that we all require to survive.

With this expanded community, I feel we are learning how to thrive by celebrating the work of phenomenal humans among us and by supporting organizations, such as Protect PT, who are indeed our sentinels.

In my mom's words, "All of the people working at Protect PT are kind, knowledgeable, professional, and truly concerned and willing to help in any way they can."

Support an organization that arms citizens with knowledge, resources, and community. Together we will ensure that no one in our community is alone when facing environmental hazards in their backyard. Invest today in our community's power to stand our ground and defend a way of life that respects our shared planet.

In gratitude,



laZae, Protect PT Member
Penn Township, PA



Pictured: Carole (laZae's mother), Protect PT's Community Advocate Jim, and Protect PT Member laZae