

MOMS
clean air
FORCE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sasha Tenenbaum, 917-887-0146 or stenenbaum@momscleanairforce.org

NEW PBS DOCUMENTARY SPOTLIGHTS MOMS FIGHTING THREAT OF AIR POLLUTION THROUGH CLEAN AIR ACTIVISM

WASHINGTON, D.C. – April 22, 2019 – In recognition of the 49th Anniversary of Earth Day and Earth Month 2019, Moms Clean Air Force is calling attention to the threat of air pollution and why the Clean Air Act is as necessary today as when it was enacted in 1970 with the release of the half-hour documentary *Do We Still Need the Clean Air Act?*

Premiering nationwide on PBS in April for Earth Month (check local listings) and available for free online streaming [here](#), *Do We Still Need the Clean Air Act?* explores the tragic mid-century events that led to the life-saving Clean Air Act and why the Act is still vitally important today. Among the film's interviewees are three inspiring members of Moms Clean Air Force including oil and gas specialist **Patrice Tomcik**, clean air advocate **Vanessa Lynch** (both from **Southwestern Pennsylvania**) and water resources engineer and environmental artist, **Michelle Irizarry** (from **Orlando, Florida**). They each reflect on their personal awakening to a human health crisis in their own backyard and the courageous steps they have taken to respond. These timely testimonies (see bios and film quotes further below) remind viewers how deeply we all depend on environmental and public health protections to keep our families safe, and how important it is to not take these protections for granted.

"This film is a powerful reminder of why American families need clean air protections now more than ever, and why advocates need to speak up about the ongoing health impacts caused by dangerous air pollution" said film interviewee **Patrice Tomcik**. "By spotlighting the experiences of real people confronting air pollution from fracking and coal-fired power plants in their own hometowns, this film helps audiences across America understand how human-caused air pollution directly contributes to our changing climate. I hope this thoughtful documentary inspires viewers to drive urgent action on climate change," she added.

The Ecosense for Living series, hosted by Jennie Turner Garlington and produced by Picture Window Productions features the following Moms Clean Air Force members (in order of appearance):

- **Patrice Tomcik** lives in Southwestern Pennsylvania in the heavily fracked county of Butler. She is a volunteer for the grassroots Mars Parent Group and an oil and gas specialist for Moms Clean Air Force. Patrice's children go to Mars Area schools, approximately a half mile from a gas well pad, and she has fought to protect the 3,200 children on that campus from the health and safety at risks of gas operations. As Patrice says in the film: "This is an industry like no other."
- **Vanessa Lynch** is a mother of two young children living in the greater Pittsburgh, PA area, where fracking is encroaching on residential communities like her own within the Fox Chapel Area School District. Vanessa is working hard to protect all children who live, learn, and play near oil and gas operations that put their health at risk.

As Vanessa says in the film: "We live here, this is our home. We don't have the luxury to just pick up and move away and distance ourselves from this."

- Michelle Irizarry is a water resources engineer and environmental artist whose family lives near a coal power plant in Orlando, FL, with multiple violations of the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. Michelle's daughters attend school in the shadow of this power plant, leaving them vulnerable to exposure from dangerous air pollutants. As Michelle says in the film, "Change is not going to happen in a vacuum. Change can only happen when enough of us protest, march, call, and demand our elected officials be accountable for pollution and put our kids' health and the health of the planet first."

MEDIA AVAILABILITY

To interview any of the interviewees in this film as part of your Earth Day coverage, please contact Sasha Tenenbaum, (917)-887-0146, stenenbaum@momscleanairforce.org.

OTHER RESOURCES

- Footage featuring Moms Clean Air Force interviews (~10:00 mn.) is accessible [here](#).
- The short trailer (~00:30 mn.) accessible [here](#).
- Our relevant blog post on the film is accessible [here](#).

###

[Moms Clean Air Force](#) is a community of more than 1,000,000 moms—and dads—working together to combat air pollution, including the urgent crisis of our changing climate, for the sake of our children's health.