



## PRESS STATEMENT

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### Moms Clean Air Force Issues Statement Regarding June 19 Explosions at the Philadelphia Energy Solutions Refinery

In the early morning hours, Philadelphia residents were awakened by a series of explosions at the Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES) oil refinery in Southwest Philadelphia.

Following the explosions, **Mollie Michel of Moms Clean Air Force, Pennsylvania**, issued the following statement:

"I live in South Philadelphia, and was awakened in the middle of the night by explosions at the PES refinery not far from my home. My first thought while I scrambled to figure out what was happening, was my children's safety.

"As a Mom, my kids' safety is my number one priority, and I do everything I can to keep them safe. But there are some things I can't control, and the air they breathe is one of them. I am deeply concerned about what they and hundreds of thousands of other Philadelphians are breathing today. Families have a right to know what's in the air in our communities. It's simply unacceptable that we don't have more information about the pollution from this explosion, which may be putting our children at risk of serious health impacts.

"Philadelphia has a childhood asthma rate of more than twice the national average, making the oil refinery even more hazardous to kids struggling to catch their breath. Even as the smoke clears, a black cloud will remain over Philadelphia as long as elected leaders and government agencies accept fires, explosions, and shelter-in-place orders as the cost of living here. Our families deserve better. Moms Clean Air Force supports meaningful and robust protections for our air, water, and public health."

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*Moms Clean Air Force is a community of over 1,000,000 moms and dads, with 60,000 members in Pennsylvania. We are united against air pollution – including the urgent crisis of our changing climate – to protect our children's health. Our moms meet with lawmakers at every level of government to build support for common sense solutions to pollution. We meet with legislators on both sides of the aisle to let them know that votes for clean air and a stable climate are urgently important to us.*