



MEDIA ADVISORY FOR JULY 11, 2019

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PA MOMS JOIN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON CAPITOL HILL AS PART OF SWEEPING MOVEMENT FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Moms Clean Air Force to Host "Play-In" Demanding Lawmakers Solve our Climate Crisis

(Washington, D.C.) – On Thursday, July 11th, five moms from PA will join more than **500 members from over 25 states** to gather at the U.S. Capitol for the **sixth** Moms Clean Air Force "Play-In" for Climate Action and live-streamed press conference. This annual event will showcase visionary leaders including members of the Global Climate Strikes who will join moms and Members of Congress on stage to demand action on climate. Speakers of all generations will be calling on political leadership at all levels to advance solutions to protect our families from the climate crisis. This means 100% clean energy across the entire economy by 2050.

Following the Play-In, the Pennsylvania delegation will head to the Capitol to meet with their members of Congress to share their personal stories and urge their representatives to take action on climate to protect their children's health and future. Pennsylvania has seen the detrimental effects to people's health and clean air from the oil and gas businesses operating within the state.

Media is invited to schedule interviews with our PA delegation.

Who:

Vanessa Lynch is a mother of two young children living in the greater Pittsburgh 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 said in a **recent PBS documentary 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."

Rijani Vaidyanathan is a mother and retired engineer living in Pittsburgh who got active as a clean air advocate when fracking came to her local school. The state's fracking boom has raised a lot of pollution concerns for Rijani and her family. Last year, Rajani offered testimony at a public hearing in Pittsburgh to oppose any weakening of our nation's greenhouse gas and fuel efficiency standards for cars. As a parent, Rijani believes in a fundamental right to clean air and water for all people and future generations.

Patrice Tomcik lives in Southwestern Pennsylvania in the heavily fracked county of Butler. She is a volunteer for the grassroots Mars Parent Group and Project Manager 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 risks of gas operations. As Patrice said in a [recent PBS documentary film](#): "[Oil and Gas] is an industry like no other...dividing communities; exposing the community to negative health impacts. I made the promise that I would work to protect other children."

Mollie Michel is the Field Organizer for Moms Clean Air Force's Pennsylvania Chapter. Mollie lives in South Philadelphia with her husband and two daughters. Living in a city dubbed an "asthma capital" because of the high asthma rates and challenging conditions for asthma-sufferers, and having worked with impacted families across the city, Mollie knows that clean air protections are vital.

Karen Kirsheman lives in South Philly with her husband and her seven year old son, Ezekiel. Karen and Zeeke will travel to the Play-In to speak up about the need for clean air protections. As residents living downwind from the largest oil refinery on the eastern seaboard (Philadelphia Energy Solutions) which had a [fiery explosion](#) in late June of this year, their family understands all too well the vital importance of a just transition to a clean energy future. The recent fire has deepened residents' concerns about what they are breathing in an area already known for high rates of asthma and other health issues.

We also invite media to watch our Play-In press conference live at approximately 10:00 AM ET on July 11th [here](#) where it will be live-streamed on our national Facebook page.

Speakers include:

Keynote speaker Alexandria Villaseñor is a 14-year-old climate justice activist and leading organizer for the ongoing global Fridays for Future Climate Strikes.

Emcee Vanessa Hauc is a Telemundo Network Emmy award-winning journalist

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE At-large)

Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

Congresswoman Kathy Castor (D-FL 7) Chair of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-MI 12)

Congresswoman Deb Haaland (D-NM 1)

Congressman Donald McEachin (D-VA 4)

Congresswoman Kim Schrier (D-WA 8)

Great Grandmother Mary Lyons is a Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe member in Minnesota, UN Indigenous Observer and Author

Rev Michael Malcom, MDiv MBA is the Executive Director of Alabama Interfaith Power and Light

Dominique Browning is Moms Clean Air Force's Co-Founder and Senior Director

Heather McTeer Toney is Moms Clean Air Force's National Field Director

An updated list of speakers can be found [here](#).

Where: The National Mall at Madison Drive NW and 3rd Street NW, Washington D.C. or follow the press conference online [here](#).

When: Thursday, July 11, 2019, from 9:30-11:00 AM (press conference begins at 10:00 AM)

NOTE: **B-roll footage** and **photos** of Play-In available upon request.

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Moms Clean Air Force is a community of over one million moms—and dads—working together to fight air pollution, including the urgent crisis of our changing climate. For more information, go to www.momscleanairforce.org or follow us on Twitter [@CleanAirMoms](https://twitter.com/CleanAirMoms), Instagram [@cleanairmoms](https://www.instagram.com/cleanairmoms), or Facebook.