

DANIELLE FRIEL OTTEN, MEMBER
155TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

102B EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202155
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2155
(717) 783-5009
FAX: (717) 772-2943

631 POTTSTOWN PIKE
EXTON, PENNSYLVANIA 19341
(484) 200-8259
FAX: (484) 200-8269



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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May 8, 2020

Secretary Patrick McDonnell
PA Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Secretary McDonnell,

We are writing to express our objection to the cancelation of public hearings on Sunoco's major modification request to HDD280 in Upper Uwchlan Township (Meadow Creek Lane).

While the cancelation of an in-person hearing in April was certainly understandable and unavoidable, the DEP must not move forward with its permit review process until a public hearing can be held, whether the hearing is conducted virtually or delayed until restrictions on public gatherings are lifted.

In its March 17 news release announcing the cancelation, the DEP asserts that "all comments, whether submitted in writing or delivered at hearings, carry equal weight." While we are glad to know that the DEP considers all comments, we respectfully submit that public hearings allow more community members to participate and ensure that appropriate public attention and notice are given to the matter at hand. Transparency is crucial to this process, and there are many resources readily available to allow the DEP to hold a virtual meeting.

Community members deserve this opportunity to be heard, to hear the comments and objections of their neighbors, and to hold Sunoco accountable. We urge you to keep your promise and hold a public hearing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Danielle Friel Otten in black ink.

Danielle Friel Otten
PA State Representative
155th Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Senator Katie Muth in black ink.

Senator Katie Muth
PA State Senator
44th Senatorial District