

Testimony by Mark Clincy of Philly Thrive on April 26th, 2019  
Philadelphia City Council  
Committee on Transportation & Public Utilities

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Hello, my name is Mark Clincy. I am a member of Philly Thrive and I am a resident of South Philadelphia. Philly Thrive is organizing for everyone's Right to Breathe Clean air for all. I and others in this room live very close to the Philadelphia Energy Solutions Oil Refinery (PES), which is responsible for emits toxic chemicals into the air. The pollution from the refinery causes asthma, cancer, and other respiratory illnesses. For more information and data proving this claim, see attached document: [Studies that Connect Pollution and Illness](#).

In 2017, Philly Thrive conducted a survey in south Philadelphia. 33.7% of participants living within the 19145 zip code (South Philly, west of Broad St) have had asthma in their lives. I've experienced firsthand what it's like to live nearby polluting fossil fuels. I feel sad and angry - I'm breathing this toxic air and I don't feel good about it. I also have family members who suffer from asthma. We are already so polluted in South Philly, we don't need another plant.

We need PGW to make a change from fossil fuels to renewable energy. We want more jobs for the community. A lot of jobs have moved from the city to the suburbs. My community has been left behind. The transition of PGW must include a plan to protect current jobs and create new jobs for people in my community who can't find work. An important piece of this conversation is cost of utilities. I know PGW wants to keep it affordable for ratepayers, but natural gas and fossil fuels is not the solution to this. The cost of having fossil fuels in our neighborhood is too high - we pay high medical bills, and some pay with our lives. The answer is a just transition away from fossil fuels, centering labor and centering communities like mine targeted by racism and classism. I am speaking as the voice for those that can't be here or are no longer with us. We want a say in what goes on in our community. We want to be part of the decision about the future of PGW.