

Statement of Ralph Tijerina, CSP
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Before the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
Committee Hearing on

Emergency Response in the Marcellus Shale Region

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Good morning, Senator Casey and members of the HELP Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Ralph Tijerina and I am the Director of Health, Safety, Security and Environmental for Range Resources Appalachia, LLC and as stated above, I am the Co-Chair for the Joint MSC/ PIOGA (Marcellus Shale Coalition/ Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association) Safety Committee. I have approximately 32 years of industry experience with the last 3 years being in Pennsylvania this September. Since 2008, I have been involved in training of First Responders in Pennsylvania to help them understand the potential hazards that exist on various stages of Natural Gas extraction. I believe that First Responders must be aware of the environment they are responding to so as not to cause harm to themselves. Range Resources Appalachia, LLC had worked with the Lycoming County Gas Task Force (Pennsylvania) to conduct a mock emergency drill for First Responders to identify areas of improvement and conduct a needs assessment. There were over 120 participants and various agencies were represented. We are currently working with the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner and the

Pennsylvania State Fire Academy to develop a number of training modules for various departments of emergency response.

The Joint PIOGA/ MSC Safety Committee is made up of industry representatives (operators), service companies, consultants, and governmental agency representatives such as Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and the Lycoming County Department of Public Safety. The members of the Safety Committee are broken down further into disciplines to address areas more specific to the classification such as Crisis Management, Drilling, Completions, etc. From a safety perspective, subjects of the committee are in direct relationship to our industry and how they apply. Fall Protection, Signage on well sites, Pennsylvania PPC Plans (Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency Plans), Fire Resistant/ Retardant Clothing to name a few.

According to a report to the American Petroleum Institute, titled “The Economic Impacts of the Marcellus Shale: Implications for New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia”, the economic impact of the Marcellus Shale could be up to \$25 billion by 2020 and create 283,000 badly needed jobs.

I will make myself available to answer any questions that the Committee wishes to address within the Natural Gas drilling operations in the Marcellus Shale to the best of my ability.