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# The Spirit of the Lorax Floods Capitol Building as Children Tell Governor & Legislators to Uphold PA's Green Amendment

## *Children Dressed as Lorax Deliver 9,000 Petitions after Rally Featuring Young Pennsylvanians*

**Harrisburg, PA** - Children dressed as the Lorax stood up for their inalienable right to a healthy environment in Harrisburg today as they rallied and delivered more than 9,000 petitions to Governor Wolf and PA lawmakers calling on them to uphold Article I, Section 27, the environmental rights amendment in the state's Constitution.

“We call on every newly-elected official and every elected official who returns to Harrisburg in 2019 to fulfill their Constitutional obligation to uphold Article 1, Section 27 by taking aggressive action to address the urgent environmental and climate challenges that confront us and by establishing policies that prevent new sources of pollution from entering the Commonwealth,” says the petition the Better Path Coalition, organizers of today's action, has been circulating since Election Day when volunteers across the state gathered signature at their polling locations.

“We Pennsylvanians cannot allow the inaction of our government or the suffocating, isolating feeling of the massive problems of climate change and environmental degradation to deter us,” said **Serena Hertzog**, an 18 year old life-long resident of Chester County and active member of the Sunrise Movement. “We are here to fight for climate justice because we share a deep love for the places that we call home and for one another. Our elected officials have failed us too many times for us to continue to stand idly by. We demand that they join us in this fight for our future.”

“I am excited to take action against pollution in our air, water, land and environment and help protect our health, the health of the people who will live here after me, and the health of the animals we share this land with,” said **Nora Schindler**, a 9-year-old and one of the youngest to be present at a Lancaster Against Pipelines direct action event.

“I'm here today to tell our legislators that no one has the right to take our environment away. They are the ones with the power to stop pollution, fracking, the destruction of forests, the extinction of species, and to stop passing laws and making decisions that damage our environment. They also have the power

to ignore us, but if they ignore us, I and the other kids and adults here today, as well as future generations, will hold them accountable. We will vote them out of office and expose them for all of the awful things they have done”, said **Wim van Rossum**, a 12-year old student attending Radnor Middle School. “We, all of the kids and parents here today, want to send a strong message to our elected leaders, we will not let you destroy our right to a clean and healthy environment.”

"My friends who I played in the local streams with are now becoming my colleagues and fellow advocates in protecting our planet. We expect these politicians we voted into office to uphold our right to clean air, safe drinking water, and a healthy environment. My generation is now one of voting adults, and we will exercise that power to protect our planet for my and future generations,” said **Anneke Walsh**, a 22-year old Delaware County native studying at Ithaca College.

**Ashton Clatterbuck**, a high school senior who became a core member of Lancaster Against Pipelines in 2014 said, “The fossil fuel industry has robbed the people of representation. Those that we elected to be our voice in Harrisburg have forgotten their obligation to us. We are forced to show up on their doorstep to demand that they simply do their job. This is not acceptable!”

“Article 1 Section 27 is vital to the state of Pennsylvania, not just because it is where I call home, but because half of the state is home to the Marcellus Shale which is the second largest natural gas field in the United States and one of the largest in the world,” said **Melanie Attieh**, a student at Northampton Community College where she is an officer of the NCC Climate Action Network, NCC’s Sustainability Committee’s student representative, and a member of the Climate Reality Project Lehigh Valley chapter.

The children also delivered copies of Dr. Seuss’ *The Lorax* and *The Green Amendment*, by Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper.

Today’s event culminated two days of action that began on Sunday with a panel discussion on the amendment, followed by a walk to the Capitol Steps where a candlelight vigil was held.

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