



## Berks Gas Truth

### Sample Script and Talking Points for Municipal Meetings:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm with an organization called Berks Gas Truth. I'm here to tell you about a new law in Pennsylvania called Act 13. It establishes an impact fee on unconventional natural gas drilling, but it does much more.

There are three sections in Act 13. The first establishes the impact fee. The second contains environmental regulations. The third takes away local control of gas drilling operations, not just drilling, but all gas drilling operations, including pipelines, compressor stations, waste disposal, seismic testing and more.

Berks County is shaped like a diamond. The northwestern edge of the diamond is in the outcrop of the Utica Shale. That means the shale is visible at the surface. It's certainly the easiest to get to, but it's not the richest shale, so it's not likely that it's going to be the first place the industry wants to drill. The imminent threats to Berks County are the pipeline projects already underway. Compressor stations sit every 40 to 100 miles along transmission lines, so they may be coming here too.

The first document I've provided is a summary of Act 13 prepared by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. They filed a lawsuit calling Act 13 unconstitutional and seeking an injunction. They were joined by seven municipalities who oppose the local control section and a physician who opposes a gag order on healthcare professionals also contained in Act 13. On April 11<sup>th</sup>, the Commonwealth Court granted a 120-day injunction on the local control section. We're using that time to ask municipalities across Pennsylvania to pass resolutions opposing Act 13 and supporting the lawsuit. A sample resolution is printed on the last page of the Act 13 summary.

The last document in your packet is a summary of something called Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance or PIPA. It is a summary of a much larger document put together by the federal Department of Transportation's Pipeline Safety group. The document deals with pipelines and land use. At the heart of PIPA is the important role municipal governments should play in making decisions regarding pipeline projects. It is well-understood that pipelines are dangerous projects and it is equally well-understood that municipal governments understand their communities better than anyone else. Act 13 flies in the face of PIPA.

The state isn't taking away your power because they think they can do it better. They're taking it away because they KNOW you can and they don't want that. The governor has made it clear that he wants an even regulatory playing field for the drillers.

I'm asking you to take a stand to preserve local control and pass a resolution opposing Act 13. We need to band together during the period of the injunction, so I hope you can consider it this evening or at your next meeting.

Thank you for your time.