

MIKE TOBASH
MEMBER
125TH Legislative District

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
4B EAST WING
PO BOX 202125
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2125
(717) 260-6148



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN OFFICE:
988 E. MAIN ST., STE A
SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PA 17972
(570) 385-8235
FAX: (570) 385-8238
TOLL FREE 855-271-9384

RepTobash.com

May 16, 2012

Berks Gas Truth
c/o Karen Feridun, Founder

Dear Ms. Feridun:

Thank you for the invitation to participate in the public forum on May 30th regarding Act 13. Unfortunately, due to other commitments, I am unable to attend this event.

I have taken the liberty of including some examples of praise I have received from local governmental and environmental organizations regarding Act 13 (H.B. 1950).

Should you need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Tobash", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Representative Mike Tobash
125th Legislative District

MT/kg
Enclosure

February 29, 2012

Representative Mike Tobash
4B East Wing
PO Box 202125
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2125

Dear Representative Tobash:

On behalf of the Renew Growing Greener Coalition, please accept my sincerest thanks for your vote on HB 1950.

The legislation represents a good first step toward renewing funding for the Environmental Stewardship Fund and Growing Greener programs and projects. While it may not be perfect, HB 1950 makes critical investments in stormwater management and programs to protect our drinking water, preserve our farmland and open space, enhance our recreational opportunities, support our heritage areas, and stimulate our local and regional economies.

Thank you for recognizing that Marcellus Shale drilling will have wide-ranging impacts on Pennsylvania's environment and for understanding that as one natural resource is depleted, it makes sense to reinvest some of the revenues back into conserving and protecting others.

As we move forward, I am hopeful that you will continue to be a champion for Pennsylvania's environment and that you will reject cuts to environmental, conservation and recreation programs in the Governor's proposed 2012-2013 budget. These cuts will undermine the progress that you made under the Shale legislation.

The Renew Growing Greener Coalition is the largest coalition of conservation, recreation and environmental organizations in the Commonwealth, representing nearly 350 organizations and government entities from across the state.

Thank you again for supporting Pennsylvania's environment.

Sincerely,



Andrew Heath
Executive Director

February 23, 2012

Honorable Mike Tobash
4B East Wing
PO Box 202125
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2125

Dear Representative Tobash:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, its board of directors, the sixty-six county conservation districts and the millions of Pennsylvanian's they serve, thank you for voting in favor of the Local Impact Fee. Without you and your support of this bill, the conservation districts would still be waiting for desperately-needed, long-term dedicated funding to protect our precious natural resources. But you made your voice heard and we have you to thank for your leadership, hard work and commitment to sustaining Pennsylvania's environment for generations to come.

We look forward to working closely with you as a partner in the upcoming months and years as our organization and membership continue to safeguard the air we breathe, the land on which we live and the water we drink. Once again, thank you for your support of the Local Impact Fee and what its resources will mean to the future of conservation districts.

Respectfully,



Robert B. Maiden
Executive Director



MaryAnn Warren
President



Office of Commissioners



Services Center, 13th Floor
633 Court Street
Reading, PA 19601-4310

Phone: 610.478.6136
Fax: 610.478.6139
E-mail: cyleinbach@countyofberks.com

Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner

May 31, 2011

Representative Mike Tobash
988 Main Street
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Dear Representative Tobash:

The Berks County Conservation District is supporting an Extraction of Natural Resources Impact Fee which includes a portion dedicated to the Conservation District Fund administered by the State Conservation Commission. As an organization dedicated to sustain, protect and restore the natural resources for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we firmly believe that a predictable portion of any mandated impact fee should be allocated directly to the Conservation District fund to maintain environmental protection programs. These funds will be needed to mitigate the environmental impacts to our resources that are specific to this industry. All impact fees received will be in addition to current funding or future funding being received or to be received by the District.

Conservation Districts provide much needed services to Commonwealth citizens to help them identify and resolve critical natural resource concerns at the local level. Collectively the state's 66 conservation districts deliver essential services that protect our soil, water and air for a reasonable cost. Since there is a direct link between the removal of natural resources and natural resource protection activities, it makes sense to consider advocating a portion of an impact fee for natural resource protection activities. Please join us in support of an impact fee, a portion of which would be dedicated to the Conservation District Fund. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Christian Y. Leinbach, Director
Berks County Conservation District



PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

February 6, 2012

TO: Members of the Senate
Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: David M. Sanke, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Conference Committee Report on House Bill 1950 (A08521)

On behalf of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS), and its Executive Board, I write to offer comments on the conference committee report on HB 1950. PSATS represents 1,455 townships of the second class that comprise 95% of Pennsylvania's land mass and 5.5 million people. Because virtually all of the current Marcellus drilling is occurring in townships, our members have had a bird's eye view of the impacts (both good and bad) brought to Penn's Woods by Natural gas exploration.

Over the past 2 years, there has been much discussion about the impact of natural gas development in the Commonwealth. In recent weeks, this has reached a fevered pitch as many have worked diligently to finalize a new intended law. There were many moving parts and issues on the table. Emotions ran high at times. There have been compromises and accommodations all through the process, but all with the end goal of making Pennsylvania a better place to live, work and raise a family.

In this current sluggish economy, PSATS certainly welcomes the jobs and economic development opportunities that natural gas development brings as well as the opportunity to reduce our national dependence on foreign oil. However, PSATS remains interested in preserving the quality of life of Pennsylvanians and our environment. That said, we support the benefits of exploration and production of our Commonwealth's natural resources as long as it is done safely.

To summarize the past year, we support enhancements to current law to better protect our environment, (land, water and air). We support the creation and enhancement of pipeline standards to provide for the safe transport and distribution of these resources. We support the development and enhancement of public safety mechanisms and emergency response plans that will ensure the maximum protection of Pennsylvanians. We support market development programs to encourage greater utilization of natural gas. We support the distribution of a local impact fee where a significant majority remains in affected communities enabling them to deal with development related costs today and in the future and to avoid local property tax increases. And most importantly, we oppose the total elimination of local control including land use, and instead support the maximum possible retention of local decision making authority in order to provide for the reasonable development of natural resources consistent with law.

4855 Woodland Drive ■ Enola, PA 17025-1291 ■ Internet: www.psats.org

PSATS ■ Pennsylvania Township News ■ Telephone: (717) 763-0930 ■ Fax: (717) 763-9732

Trustees Insurance Fund ■ Unemployment Compensation Group Trust ■ Telephone: (800) 382-1268 ■ Fax: (717) 730-0209

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Everyone has always agreed on protecting our environment, promoting economic development and promoting public safety. From our perspective, the disagreement was about the imposition of a fee to allow an industry to pay its fair share and the rules of occupation/land use. We are pleased to have fought hard to convince participants of the need for a local impact fee as included in the conference report. This will prevent any costs associated with this exploration from being saddled onto the backs of local taxpayers. We are equally pleased to have been able to thwart the "nuclear-like" attack on local land use decision making which would have resulted in a statewide, one-size fits all total preemption of local decisions. That being said, we recognize the value of reasonable and commonsense standards that offer a level of predictability for economic growth so long as it is coupled with local "boots on the ground" community protection afforded by local government leaders. This Conference Committee report provides for local ordinances that comport with this Act, the MPC and Flood Plain Management Act and that may also be reviewed by the Public Utility Commission for reasonableness and commonsense.

While we remain concerned about pipeline placement, we will anxiously await the Governor's Energy Executive's 1-year performance review of pipeline issues. We applaud the work of the General Assembly leaders, members and staff; the Corbett-Cawley Administration, its Advisory Commission and staff; and are especially grateful for the participation afforded to PSATS in this process. We believe the Conference Committee report on HB 1950 hits the mark on these important criteria and represents the best document yet to make sure that Pennsylvania gets it right this time. We would ask the General Assembly to adopt the Conference Committee Report.

DMS:meg