



PENNSYLVANIA BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

November 28, 2011

The Honorable Tom Corbett, Governor
225 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Corbett:

I am writing on behalf of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PABS) to express our support for a statewide tax or impact fee on Marcellus Shale gas drilling in Pennsylvania, with a portion of that tax reserved for Growing Greener and funding environmental protection. PABS is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to increase the knowledge of and foster the perpetuation of the natural biological diversity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Our membership includes scientists, representatives of state and federal agencies concerned with natural resource management, and representatives of non-profit conservation organizations.

*"As Pennsylvanians, every day we experience the very core of our Commonwealth's character in the beauty and bounty of our state's natural resources. These natural treasures are so sacred that our Commonwealth's constitution has enshrined our timeless responsibility as **trustees** for their protection."* (Excerpt from Governor Ridge's 1995 Inaugural Address)

Marcellus shale development has numerous environmental impacts, both aquatic and terrestrial. Although aquatic impacts such as water withdrawals and pollution have received the most attention, there are also significant terrestrial impacts. Roads, drilling pads, and pipelines fragment forest habitats, adversely affecting many wildlife species and providing inroads for invasive species. Protecting sensitive species and habitats will require monitoring and mitigating environmental impacts, controlling the spread of invasive species, and restoring habitats and wildlife populations, all of which will require substantial funding.

It is vitally important that a uniform statewide tax on natural gas be enacted with a significant portion going to fund Growing Greener and provide much needed funding for environmental protection. Renewal of Growing Greener will provide badly needed funds to help local communities protect water quality and preserve open space and natural resources. A portion of a tax should also be provided to the state agencies that oversee Marcellus development activity and manage our natural resources, including the PA Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Fish and Boat Commission, and Game Commission.

Pennsylvania is the only major natural gas producing state without a statewide tax or impact fee on natural gas production. As is evident in other gas producing states, a reasonable tax would not unduly affect the natural gas industry. Implementation of a gas tax, with a portion of the revenues reserved for Growing Greener and environmental protection, would help provide our communities and natural resource management agencies with the financial resources they need to monitor, protect, and restore our natural environment. The PABS membership urges you to support the implementation of a statewide natural gas tax. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Maret". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Timothy J. Maret
President, Pennsylvania Biological Survey
Professor, Department of Biology
Shippensburg University
Shippensburg, PA 17257

Cc: The Honorable Dominic Pileggi, Majority Leader, PA State Senate
The Honorable Jay Costa, Minority Leader, PA State Senate
The Honorable Samuel H. Smith, Speaker, PA State House of Representative
The Honorable Frank Dermody, Minority Leader, PA State House of Representative