

## MARCELLUS SHALE WELL DRILLING

*Submitted by Senator James Ferlo*

I have introduced Senate Bill 1447 calling for a one-year statewide moratorium on all new Marcellus Shale natural gas well drilling in Pennsylvania. I strongly believe we must take a step back to assess the impacts of this type of drilling on our communities and environment, and take the necessary time to put a protective statutory and regulatory framework in place to protect the public's health and our ecosystems.

While I recognize the economic opportunity offered by the gas wells, they pose significant public safety and environmental hazards and we have a responsibility to examine the impact that this new activity is going to have on our environment, our state's tourism industry, our labor force, our abundant water resources, and on our communities and residents.

I am proposing a minimum of a one year moratorium while a study commission is formed to analyze gas well drilling to make recommendations on:

• Proper protection for rivers, streams, and groundwater from drilling activities, including protecting drinking water, and managing wastewater, storm water run-off, and spills;

• The disclosure and consequences of specific chemicals used by the drilling industry, including amounts used at each well site;

• How to handle liability and bonding at all well sites in the event of likely drilling disasters that pose an environmental nightmare, especially in remote areas;

• The impact on the state labor market and on how to encourage job opportunities and procurement for Pennsylvania businesses;

• The financial impact to host communities such as inadequate trucking routes and transport of contaminated water which is produced due to the type of drilling and fracturing method;

• Property rights of both those leasing land and those adjacent to leased land; and

• The cumulative impact of existing and likely proposed drilling in Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale, including an analysis on water quality, air quality, land use, habitat, and human health.

Senate Bill 1447 has been referred to the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee for consideration. Please take a moment to let me know your opinion on this issue. You can find more information and links on my website at [www.senatorferlo.com](http://www.senatorferlo.com). If I or my staff can help you with any state-related issue or concern, please contact my office at 412-621-3006.

