



July 29, 2020

Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patrick J. Toomey  
248 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick  
1722 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Brendan Boyle  
1133 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Dwight Evans  
1105 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Madeleine Dean  
129 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Mary Gay Scanlon  
1535 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Chrissy Houlahan  
1218 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Susan Wild  
1607 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Matt Cartwright  
1034 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Dan Meuser  
326 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Scott Perry  
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Representative Lloyd Smucker  
127 Cannon HOB  
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Representative Fred Keller  
1717 Longworth HOB  
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Representative John Joyce  
1337 Longworth HOB  
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Representative Guy Reschenthaler  
531 Cannon HOB  
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Representative Glenn Thompson  
400 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Mike Kelly  
1707 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Conor Lamb  
1224 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Mike Doyle  
306 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleagues in Pennsylvania's Congressional Delegation:

We write to you as the majority and minority chairs of the Pennsylvania Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee in support of dedicated federal funding for the purpose of plugging abandoned and orphaned conventional oil and gas wells in Pennsylvania.

As you are aware, Pennsylvania's conventional oil and gas industry dates back over 160 years, employing thousands of hardworking Pennsylvanians who are producing oil for lubricants and natural gas for PA homes, schools and businesses. In fact, many conventional businesses are small family owned operations, which have a huge impact on the state and local economy. Like many Pennsylvania businesses, the conventional industry is not immune to the economic hardships faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Industry layoffs have been widespread.

Pennsylvania's conventional oil and gas industry has been, and continues to be, an invaluable partner to the Commonwealth for plugging abandoned and orphaned oil and gas wells. Unfortunately, the plugging program lacks the resources it needs to address the issue on the scale it requires.

Registering abandoned and orphaned conventional oil and gas wells was not required until the 1950s, and posting cleanup bonds was not required until 1980. As a result, there are over 10,000 wells on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Orphan Well List, which await plugging. There are tens of thousands of additional environmentally harmful orphaned wells from across the state eligible for DEP's list, but limited resources to address them. These rusting wells pollute land, water and air, including releasing methane, a dangerous greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere.

Simply put, a substantial investment into the state's well plugging program would be a "win-win," aiding the conventional oil and gas workers and providing a long-term environmental and health benefit to all Pennsylvanians. That is why the concept of using federal stimulus money to plug these wells enjoys support across the political spectrum and from both industry and environmental advocates.

We respectfully ask for your consideration and support of this funding in the event that a new stimulus package advances through Congress.

Sincerely,



Sen. Gene Yaw  
Majority Chairman  
23<sup>rd</sup> Senatorial District



Sen. Steve Santarsiero  
Minority Chairman  
10<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District