

## Gas Drilling and Climate Change - Candidates Speak Out

by Barb Jarmoska, RDA Board of Directors/Newsletter Editor

The midterm election is fast approaching, and this is the final RDA newsletter before we head to the polls on November 4th. In order to help our members understand the candidate's positions on the twin topics of unconventional gas drilling and climate change, we sent a request to each legislative candidate asking for his/her position on these paired topics. In some cases, we received no response. Other candidates deemed our request worthy of a personal reply, which we are happy to share with you here. In the cases of no response, we offer you information from the candidates' websites.

RDA wishes to thank Mirabito, Everett, Hayes, and Troiano for taking the time to provide us with a direct reply. No word limit was set. Links to the full text are provided for longer replies.

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### Rick Mirabito (D) - Incumbent - PA 83rd District

One of the environmental challenges we face in the United States is that we comprise 3% of the world's population but we consume 25% of the world's energy. Conservation is the best and most efficient way to reduce energy usage. That method, however, is not sufficient to deal with the immediate demands for energy in our country. The result is that we use energy from all parts of the world, including places where the local population does not have the ability to protect the environment.

So we are faced with several challenges. How do we produce enough energy for our country now without doing irreparable damage to our own environment and the environments of other people in the world? How do we reduce the use of oil-based materials while maintaining a long-term focus on sources of energy that cause less destruction to our environment?

One option is to use our natural gas resources while we develop renewable sources of energy. The problems facing us with renewable energy sources are not only making them cost effective; it also is a

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#### In Other News

##### Pentagon Signals Security Risks of Climate Change

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon released a report asserting decisively that climate change poses an immediate threat to national security, with increased risks from terrorism, infectious disease, global poverty and food shortages. It also predicted rising demand for military disaster responses as extreme weather creates more global humanitarian crises.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

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RDA would like to thank all of those who showed up and helped to make this past Tuesday's zoning meeting a success. It's great to see so many concerned citizens paying attention to what is happening and coming out to see what can be done to help protect and improve our circumstances. Collectively, we

question about educating the public about them. We need time to do both. [Click here to read more from Rick Mirabito.](#)

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## Jeff Wheeland (R) - Challenger - PA 83rd District

No response to RDA's request.  
No mention of climate change found on Wheeland's website.

Wheeland on gas drilling, from his website:

Jeff will ensure our region continues to realize the economic benefits of the Marcellus Shale through its safe and responsible development. As County Commissioner, he called for a strong oversight to protect our local environment - while also fighting for an impact fee that returns the money collected from drillers to help ensure that gas drilling came to our communities and it was done in a way that was safe for our natural resources and our environment. He knows local impact fees are improving the lives of many local residents and providing jobs and new opportunities for economic growth throughout our region.

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## Garth Everett (R) - Incumbent - PA 84th District

My views on global warming and natural gas development - OK - let's start with natural gas development. First, when one discusses or addresses natural gas development, I believe one has to separate the policy issue (is natural gas "good") from the practical issues of getting it out of the ground and to market.

From the outset, I've said, from the practical side of the discussion, that I believe that we can extract natural gas in Pennsylvania in an environmentally responsible manner. I've never said, and never will, that the development has no impacts - to reiterate - what I have said, and continue to say, is that it can be done responsibly.

Natural gas development in Pennsylvania pretty much coincides with the time period I have served as state representative. We have done a lot during that time period to upgrade our regulatory oversight of the industry. Back in 2006 when the first real drilling started in the Marcellus, our gas regulations were focused on how conventional or shallow well gas is drilled and did not fully address the technology of hydrofracturing. [Click here to read more from Garth Everett.](#)

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## Kristen Hayes (D) - Challenger - PA 84th District

The threat of climate change is real. We must put an end to partisan political bickering, pandering and posturing. People of good will need to stop looking at single issues as disconnected to the whole. Those who don't support environmental issues will suffer the same economic consequences as those who do. In the end, the tax payers foot the bill for environmental remediation, health care, and the need for educational and social services related to compromised health. These issues aren't Democrat or Republican issues, they're people issues. We are all connected.

can make a difference! :)

### Political Forum and Debate

Wednesday, October 29  
6 pm

**Kristen Hayes vs. Garth Everett**

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this important event.

Understand the issues facing rural PA and the differences between two candidates vying to represent the 84th legislative district.

The forum will be held at:

The Community Theater League  
100 W. 3rd Street

- Explore the issues
- Know the candidate's positions
- Become an educated voter

(parking available in garage across the street)

### Televised Debate

Tuesday, October 28  
6 pm

**Scott Brion vs. Tom Marino vs. Nick Troiano**

Watch live on public television station WVIA-TV or [click here to reserve your free seating at Sordani High-Definition Theater in Jenkins Township.](#)

### "Marcellus Shale Documentary Project"

September 23 - December 14

**The Palmer Museum of Art, State College**

The "Marcellus Shale Documentary Project" features photographic images that tell the personal stories of Pennsylvanians affected by the Marcellus Shale gas industry. By creating a visual document of the environmental, social and economic impact of the drilling, the work aims to engage communities in the current Marcellus Shale debate

Climate change is connected to the other threats to our environment. In addition to methane emissions, which are 84 times worse than CO2 over the first 20 years, gas drilling must be viewed through the greater framework of greenhouse gas emissions from all sources.

Environmental toxins enter our bodies via multiple routes of exposure: air, water, food and soil. We are all at risk, particularly unborn and young children and the elderly. Because of the depth of my understanding in this arena, I was invited to the White House in February, 2014. Along with other faith leaders, I was a guest of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. These invitations were not based on political or religious affiliation; we walked in without labels and came out without labels. [Click here to read more from Kristen Hayes.](#)

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## Tom Marino (R) - Incumbent - US House, 10th District

No response to RDA's request.  
No mention of climate change found on Marino's website.

Marino on gas drilling, from his website:

Tom comes from a region that has been blessed with an abundance of natural gas. This resource can make us energy independent and assist in protecting our national security. Our country's dependence on foreign oil has led us to give trillions of American dollars to foreign nations, many of which pose a serious threat to our security.

Back in Washington, Tom will vote for legislation that:

- Allows for the safe development of domestic energy resources like oil and natural gas.
- Encourages development of alternative and renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, nuclear, geothermal and improved hydroelectric facilities.
- Reduces the government's unnecessary regulation of domestic electric utilities which leads to unnecessarily high costs for energy, low job growth in the manufacturing sector and a stagnant economy.

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## Scott Brion (D) - Challenger - US House, 10th District

No response to RDA's request.

Brion on climate and gas drilling, from his website:

- Energy and the Environment are inextricably linked and we need to protect our environment through a sensible energy policy.
- An "all of the above" energy policy can be sensible, but requires a long term approach that properly values the environment and addresses the challenges of a hydrocarbon based economy.
- We must respect science and begin to address climate change. Carbon reduction should be addressed through a comprehensive approach rather than focusing on individual projects which

while providing important historical images for the future. In capturing images of the people and places most affected by gas drilling, photographers Noah Addis, Nina Berman, Brian Cohen, Scott Goldsmith, Lynn Johnson and Martha Rial examine both the positive and negative results of the recent boom in the gas industry and how the environment and the communities that live with the resources are being shaped.

[Click here to view the Marcellus Shale Gallery Conversation Schedule for October.](#)

[Click Here for more details on the entire exhibition.](#)

### Stop Fracking in PA Campout

October 24-26

#### Salt Springs State Park

Come join Energy Justice Shale Initiative, Sierra Club members, students, and other anti-fracking activists in a festive outing at Salt Springs State Park.

Attendees will tour local gas extraction sites, hike through the Old Growth Hemlock Groves of Salt Springs State Park, and strategize on how they can prevent fracking from harming Pennsylvania communities and public lands.

[Click here for more details.](#)

### A Message To Our Next Governor - Take a Strong Stand on Methane

**Take a zero tolerance pledge on methane leaks from the shale gas industry**

Methane leakage from shale gas infrastructure endangers public health and safety, and accelerates climate change. Leaking methane from shale gas infrastructure also includes significant amounts of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which contributes to ground-level ozone pollution and exposes residents to cancer-causing pollutants.

Colorado has already adopted standards demanding that the oil

results in a less effective choosing of winners and losers.

- Unconventional oil & gas development through hydraulic fracturing (aka "fracking") must be conducted in a safe & transparent manner.
- We need to strengthen not erode our vigilance in environmental protection. A strong independent EPA is good for people, good for business, good for the environment and essential for America's future.

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## Nick Troiano (IN) - Challenger - US House, 10th District

Environmental sustainability and the threat of climate change is one of the biggest issues facing the country because it will become worse if nothing is done and harder to solve as time goes on. We need to move towards cleaner sources of energy and slow harmful emissions by eliminating fossil fuel subsidies and enacting a revenue-neutral carbon tax.

Within Pennsylvania, natural gas development has been a boon to local economies and can play a key role in our country developing energy independence, but it must be done in a safe and sustainable way. The federal government must focus on increasing transparency and oversight. For example, Congress should require the disclosure of all chemicals used before, during, and after the hydraulic fracturing process. I also support requiring the submission of a cement bond log, a record of data to test the quality of cement injected around a wellbore, to the Bureau of Land Management.

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***RDA did not solicit comments from the two candidates for PA Governor. Text below is quoted directly from the candidates' websites:***

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## Tom Corbett (R) - Incumbent - PA Governor

No mention of climate change on Corbett's website.

Corbett on gas drilling, from his website:

Tom Corbett promised he was going to do everything he could to make Pennsylvania an energy supplier to America and the rest of the world - and he's delivered. Not only is Pennsylvania a leading producer of coal, utilizing clean-coal technology, but Pennsylvania is now the second-largest natural gas producer in the entire country.

And the benefits to Pennsylvanians have been nothing short of remarkable. The Marcellus Shale natural gas industry now supports over 240,000 direct and indirect Pennsylvania jobs. And that number is expected to continue growing.

But the benefits for Pennsylvanians are much greater than just jobs. Tom Corbett has made sure this growing industry is held accountable for following strict environmental guidelines, as well as ensuring local

and gas industry find and fix leaks and capture 95% of leaked methane and VOCs. While shale gas burns cleaner than coal, shale infrastructure can leak as much as 17% of its product, undercutting any climate change benefit.

Some of Pennsylvania's elected officials have made a career out of denying the environmental impacts of shale gas development. A strong stance on methane leakage is an absolute necessity in a state where the gas industry remains largely unchecked.

Please ask each candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania to stop methane leakage.

[Click here to take a stand & send a message to the candidates.](#)

## Frack Free Parks

### The Campaign Continues

It's not too late to participate in the "Frack Free Parks" campaign initiated by the Save the Loyalsock Coalition. Take a "selfie" in the woods with [THIS SIGN](#) and email it to [frackfreeparks@gmail.com](mailto:frackfreeparks@gmail.com) so they can upload it to the tumblr site. Then feel free to share it all over your other social media.



[Click here for more information](#)

## PA Moratorium Petition

### Request a Moratorium on Further Leasing of our State Park and Forest Land

Our state forests are rare places that provide respite and recreation for our citizens. The proposed lift on the moratorium of gas leasing will lead to further drilling that will jeopardize fragile ecosystems. Our state forests and parks should be set apart, protected and held in trust for the future.

We need your help to stop additional

communities share in the economic benefits.

So far, the Marcellus Shale natural gas industry has paid over \$400 million to local communities for their critical local projects, and an additional \$2.1 billion in state corporate taxes, helping ensure we can keep taxes low for hardworking Pennsylvania families. It's also resulted in lower energy bills for Pennsylvania families and seniors.

Tom Corbett is keeping his promise to establish Pennsylvania as a leading energy supplier to America and the rest of the world.

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## Tom Wolf (D) - Challenger - PA Governor

### Wolf on climate change, from his website:

Tom knows we need to remove the politics from the discussion about climate change and global warming. We need to take action so that future generations have access to fresh air and clean water, and have the opportunity to explore and enjoy Pennsylvania's natural beauty.

As governor, Tom will promote policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote clean energy alternatives, and invest in green energy technology and infrastructure. Additionally, Tom will appoint qualified individuals to lead the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources who will be responsible for proactively addressing climate change and promoting policies that are in the best interest of current and future residents -- not special interests.

Specifically, Tom will:

- Expand the use of Clean Energy -- Tom will work to make Pennsylvania a national leader in the development of clean energy sources. Within his first year in office, Tom will introduce legislation expanding Pennsylvania's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards and restoring some funding for the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority.
- Accelerate Investment in Energy Efficiency Retrofits -- Tom wants to accelerate new investments in Pennsylvania in energy efficiency retrofits of commercial and residential real estate by engaging the private sector and developing new programs and policies to spur growth. Tom will explore several policy options including new workforce development training for workers in the energy efficiency retrofit sector, new access to energy use data to allow investors to determine which buildings represent the best potential investments for retrofits, and new financing tools to attract private sector investments in Pennsylvania in building retrofits.
- Issue Responsible Climate Change Action Plans -- The next Climate Change Action plan, which is mandated by Act 70, is due in October, 2015. Tom will direct his Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection to produce a report that is based on science, and includes meaningful emission reduction targets and policies to help meet these goals.
- Set Green Building Standards for State Buildings -- Tom will require the State to meet green building standards on all state-owned new large building projects (20,000+ square feet), building projects in which a state agency is leasing at least 90

gas leasing of state park and forest land. We urge you to please take action by sending a message to your legislators so the General Assembly will not open the door to additional leasing.

[Click here to take action!](#)

## Pinkwashing Spotlight



Susan G. Komen & fracking giant Baker Hughes have taken pinkwashing to a new low - they're teaming up to distribute 1,000 pink drill bits. Baker Hughes' fracking chemicals increase our risk of breast cancer while Komen raises millions of dollars to try to cure it. This pinkwashing is indefensible. [Take Action: tell Komen to stop fracking with our health.](#)

## Join RDA!

### Sign Up/Make a Donation

We welcome your active participation and are in need of help for special events, publicity, research, and other projects.

It costs nothing to sign up for our e-newsletter or become a member of our organization, but tax-free donations are accepted & greatly appreciated.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, RDA relies on donations for the important work we do. In order for RDA to continue its valuable education and advocacy outreach in 2014, please consider a tax-free contribution to our efforts.

You can send a donation to the address listed at the bottom of this email, or [click here to download our current membership form](#) to fill out and send in along with your donation.

Membership levels:  
Adventurer.....\$10  
Explorer.....\$20

percent of the square footage, and renovations of state-owned or leased buildings that meet this "size" criteria.

- Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions -- Under Tom's leadership, Pennsylvania will join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. He will work with the initiative and other states to set emission caps that are fair to Pennsylvania. Tom will use a portion of the revenue generated from the sale of permits to invest in renewable energy technology.
- Help build renewable energy workforce and sector -- As governor, Tom will target existing State workforce and education dollars toward the development of a public/private green jobs training program.

#### **Wolf on gas drilling, from his website:**

With Pennsylvania sitting on one of the largest deposits of natural gas in the world, Tom Wolf believes that the Marcellus Shale must be a key component of any plan for Pennsylvania's future. We must ensure that we take advantage of this resource and opportunity in a way that benefits all Pennsylvanians and protects our water and environment.

Four years ago Tom Wolf called for a severance tax on natural gas extraction and responsible development, saying:

Pennsylvania is sitting on one of the largest deposits of natural gas in the world, the Marcellus Shale formation, which stretches from our northeast to southwest corner. With new drilling techniques we can now efficiently unlock these massive natural gas deposits that lie beneath huge portions of our state.

Experts estimate there might be as much as 50 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas beneath Pennsylvania's soil. That would make our commonwealth the Saudi Arabia of natural gas and, if managed correctly, transform our economy.

Tom Wolf believes Marcellus Shale must be a key component of any plan for Pennsylvania's economic future.

The urgent challenge facing our state leaders, now and into the future, is how to manage this remarkable natural resource so that its benefits are broadly shared by the citizens of Pennsylvania for many years to come.

Unfortunately, Governor Corbett's failed leadership has given away our state's valuable resources without generating revenue for critical investments like schools, roads, and economic development and harmed our environment.

If states like Texas, West Virginia, and Oklahoma are able to charge a severance tax on gas extraction to fund key priorities, it's time Pennsylvania does too.

And just as Pennsylvania helped to fuel the industrial revolution with the first commercially developed oil wells in Titusville and the anthracite coal fields, we can once again have a bright economic future based on these abundant natural gas reserves. The negative environmental impact of the oil and coal booms, however, should serve as a warning of what can happen if our natural resources are not properly managed.

Unlike Governor Corbett, Tom Wolf will make sure state agencies tasked with environmental oversight are adequately funded, staffed, and supervised to prevent reckless drilling, and that irresponsible

Woodlander.....	\$50
Guardian.....	\$100
Naturalist.....	\$500
Preservationist.....	\$1,000

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companies are held accountable.

Tom Wolf believes that we have an obligation to get this new energy era right. To do so, it will take a plan with these principles:

**Enact a 5 percent severance tax to build for Pennsylvania's future.** We should make sure that the citizens of the commonwealth share in a portion of the financial benefits of this geologic windfall. Texas, Wyoming, Louisiana, New Mexico, West Virginia and most other states in the country currently benefit as oil and gas companies and other corporate interests cash in on those states' environmental resources.

**Make smart investments to fund Pennsylvania's priorities.** Rather than just using natural gas funds to plug budget holes or fund the same old approaches to economic development, we should use these new resources to build a brighter future for Pennsylvania's with strategic investments in schools, roads, and renewable energy technology.

**Ensure responsible drilling to protect Pennsylvania's environment.** New drilling technologies and water recycling processes would allow us to exploit our natural gas resources without causing environmental degradation. Additionally, Tom Wolf will ensure the following steps are taken to protect our environment, to hold drilling companies responsible, and to create jobs for working, middle-class families:

- Increase funding for the Department of Environmental Protection so that it is sufficiently staffed and able to provide proper oversight of drillers;
- Bring greater transparency to the fracking process by requiring drillers to publicly disclose chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process, and lifting the current gag order on physicians;
- Allow local communities more control in zoning.

If done right, continued development of natural gas is a bridge to a clean energy future and renewables and will allow Pennsylvania to have good-paying energy jobs; a safe and secure environment; and the ability to make critical investments in education, health care, and infrastructure through a severance tax on oil and natural gas extraction.

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**If you made it to the end of our candidate's report - you are officially an informed voter, deserving of an RDA gold star.**

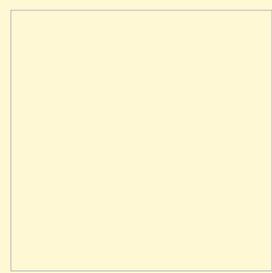
**Now... get out and vote on November 4th!**

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Please note: The RDA newsletter includes reporting on a variety of events and activities, which do not necessarily reflect the philosophy of the organization. RDA practices only non-violent action in voicing the organization's beliefs and concerns.

Responsible Drilling Alliance | [responsibledrillingalliance@gmail.com](mailto:responsibledrillingalliance@gmail.com)  
<http://www.rdapa.org>  
Phone: 888.332.1244 (toll free)

Please mail donations to:  
RDA, PO Box 502, Williamsport, PA 17703

