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House of Representatives

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January 28, 2021

Governor Tom Wolf
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

We write you today deeply concerned about your most recent plan to raise taxes on the natural gas industry and threaten thousands of family-sustaining jobs during a time of great economic uncertainty.

We share your commitment to protecting the health of all Pennsylvanians amid the COVID-19 pandemic. However, at a time when we should be prioritizing vaccine distribution and discussing how to bring critical PPE and pharmaceutical manufacturing back to the U.S. and specifically to Pennsylvania, you continue to push your same tired severance tax proposal that Pennsylvanians have rejected every year that you've been in office.

The natural gas industry that you so desperately seek to penalize is the very industry on which we depend during times of health crisis. Natural gas is the feedstock for medical equipment and supplies, including the PPE and hospital equipment that keep our frontline workers safe and prepared. The very respirators that have saved countless lives during this pandemic would not be possible without natural gas. Vaccine development and distribution is dependent on natural gas.

The natural gas industry continues to face serious economic turmoil that has caused job loss across our region from companies that are curbing their investment, some even exiting the state entirely, due to prolonged and historically low natural gas prices. From our building trades to the men and women who work for so many Pennsylvania-based small supply companies that service the natural gas industry, each of us has been contacted by these workers —representing thousands of others—who fear they will lose their livelihoods. During a time of serious economic uncertainty, raising taxes that threaten our constituents and constituent businesses is unconscionable.

Now more than ever, we must be innovative for our workers, families, small businesses and communities. We need to bring more opportunities to the Commonwealth – more opportunities that create jobs and leverage our natural resources to our economic benefit. A severance tax on the natural gas industry is not only harmful to these goals but harmful to our critical vaccination and pandemic recovery efforts.

We strongly urge you to reconsider this job-killing tax proposal and work with the legislature on economic relief measures that will help Pennsylvanians without shuttering critical operations and industries.

Sincerely,



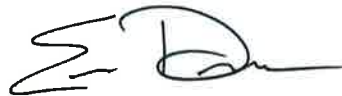
Joshua D. Kail
15th Legislative District




George Dunbar
56th District



Bud Cook
49th District



Eric Davanzo
58th District



Matthew Dowling
51st District



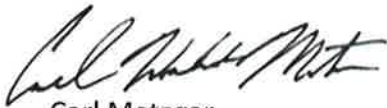
Carrie Lewis DelRosso
33rd District



Jim Marshall
14th District



Robert Mercuri
28th District



Carl Metzgar
69th District



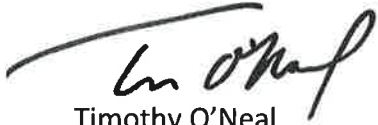
Natalie Mihalek
40th District



Lori Mizgorski
30th District



Eric Nelson
57th District



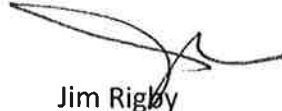
Timothy O'Neal
48th District



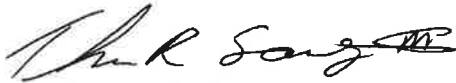
Jason Ortity
46th District



Michael Puskaric
39th District



Jim Rigby
71st District



Tommy Sankey
73rd District



Jason Silvis
55th District



James Struzzi, II
62nd District



Ryan Warner
52nd District