



Sullivan County Commissioners

245 Muncy St., P.O. Box 157

Laporte, PA 18626

Phone 570-946-5201 Fax 570-946-4421

commissioners@sullivancounty-pa.us

www.sullivancounty-pa.us

Darla M. Bortz
Chairperson
Robert R. Getz
Vice-Chairman
Wylie S. Norton
Commissioner

Naomi M. English
Chief Clerk
Kenneth R. Levitzky
Solicitor

February 24, 2015

Chairman Senator Gene Yaw of the Senate Resources and Energy Committee

Chairman Senator Scott Hutchinson of the Senate Local Government Committee

It is my understanding that the "Impact Fee" was established to support the citizens and the communities that were impacted by the exploration and extraction of Marcellus Gas from underneath their land for the good of the state of Pennsylvania and a grateful Nation. It is a fact that no one in any state in these United States wants to reduce the amount of energy that we use on a daily basis, so we must be open-minded and find new sources to meet the public demand for energy.

Sullivan County is an eighth class county. We are one of the counties in North Central - Northeastern Pennsylvania that has been impacted by the harvesting of this energy. We are also one of the counties that has benefited by the "impact fee". Some of the residents of our county benefit by the royalty payments from the well on their land, but ALL of the residents of Sullivan County are impacted by the traffic and the noise from the drilling rigs. The country roadways are stressed by the weight and size of the equipment necessary for the gas extraction. Housing has been affected and there is an extra burden on the courts and human services of our county.

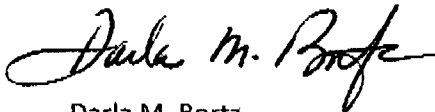
The "impact fee" that our county has received has been a huge benefit to reduce the impact this industry has imposed on the tax payers of this eighth class county. Each of the municipalities of this county receive monies that they have used to repair roads and bridges that they would not have been able to repair with just the liquid fuels monies that they receive. Each citizen claiming homestead or farmstead in Sullivan County has, for two years, realized a decrease on their county tax. This gives a portion back to every resident that is impacted, but does not necessarily benefit from a royalty payment. We have used the "impact fee" to remove our senior citizens from waiting lists for services they are in great need of. We have used the "impact fee" to decrease the burden on our tax payers for the cost of incarcerated individuals in jails and to offset the cost of our "911" and Emergency Services. Emergency Service costs are greatly on the rise, while the income for these services, are on a rapid decline. Our Conservation Districts and Forestry Services have also benefited.

The larger cities in our state and country benefit from the gas under our feet. We heat and light their homes at a lower cost and more efficiently. Every county in the state of Pennsylvania has benefited from the "impact fee", BUT not every county In Pennsylvania has benefited from this energy to heat or light their homes with at a reduced cost. Rural Pennsylvania does not have the infrastructure to utilize the energy beneath the land. We will give you the benefit of this new energy, but let us continue to benefit from the "impact fee".

I would invite each and every one of you who have never visited this part of your state to visit our county. Experience the impact this industry has had on our land. Talk to the residents of our county. Appreciate the changes and challenges that they have faced all for the benefit of this new energy source. Allow them the small comfort of the "impact fee" to remain to offset the sacrifices that they have all made for this state and this nation. This is one "fee" that for the first time, was given to those who truly deserve it. It did not come back by population or miles of roads, but to those who are so greatly impacted for the benefit of many.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darla M. Bortz". The signature is fluid and matches the typed name below it.

Darla M. Bortz

Sullivan County Commissioner