

***Delaware Riverkeeper Network  
Berks Gas Truth  
Clean Air Council***

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Sustainable Energy Solutions, Not Pipelines Should be  
Governor Wolf's Priority**

**Environmental Organizations Respond to Announcement of Pipeline Task Force**

**Bristol, PA** ... Building a better pipeline is not in Pennsylvania's best interest say environmental advocates in response to Governor Tom Wolf's announcement of his Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force yesterday. The groups are calling on the governor to prioritize the transition to sustainable energy solutions over the enabling of further development of the fossil fuels the pipelines would carry.

"Creating a task force intended to help corporations realize greater profits by exploiting the communities of the Commonwealth through increasing drilling, fracking and shale gas is not responsible leadership. Pipelines result in the taking of public and private lands, cuts through recreation areas and hunting grounds, the pollution of water and air, the destruction of forests, wetlands and habitats, cuts that impact peoples lives and the ecosystems we depend upon and enjoy – creating a task force to do this with increasing efficiency and speed is a misuse of limited government funding," said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper**. "To the extent the governor wants to strengthen regulation to try and reduce the harms inflicted by pipeline construction and operation he doesn't need a task force, the knowledge about better construction practices is readily available. Given that, it seems to me that this committee is more about showmanship than leadership," van Rossum added.

The governor's announcement notes that up to 30,000 miles of new pipelines could be built over the next decade.

"At a time when reputable climate scientists have come to consensus that we need to transition away from fossil fuels as quickly as possible, an initiative like Governor Wolf has proposed that

encourages a massive expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure is a giant step in a dangerously wrong direction," says **Karen Feridun**, Founder of Berks Gas Truth.

"Already we are facing a massive build out of shale gas pipelines in Pennsylvania. The question should not be how to build these projects more efficiently, but instead whether or not we even need these projects in the first place," said Joseph Otis Minott, Esq., Executive Director of the Clean Air Council. "Each new pipeline that gets built has tremendous social, economic, and environmental impacts on a community. The time is now to stop the expansion of shale gas infrastructure and pursue renewable energy development instead, right here in Pennsylvania."

The problems don't stop there. Pipelines cause significant health and environmental impacts of their own, including air pollution, water contamination, deforestation, and habitat destruction, problems that are well-documented in sources readily available to the Governor today.

"As with most things, there are better ways and worse ways to build pipelines. However, there is no safe way to build a pipeline. If Governor Wolf's aim is leadership and not showmanship, he will establish a sustainable energy task force instead," says **van Rossum**.

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