



July 14, 2011

The Honorable Chris Christie
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Governor Christie:

It was heartening to hear you lay out a plan for “economic dynamism and growth” in your January State of the State Address, and your vision to ensure that “New Jersey can once again be a beacon — a national leader” on important issues such as economic growth.

In line with that common sense vision, and on behalf of the more than 200 companies that comprise the Marcellus Shale Coalition (MSC), I respectfully urge you to veto Senate Bill No. 2576, which would prohibit hydraulic fracturing – a tightly-regulated well completion process that enhances the flow of natural gas that is transported to homes and businesses in New Jersey and across the country. When asked if this technology has ever impacted groundwater, New Jersey’s former top environmental regulator and current U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator, Lisa Jackson, recently told Congress, “I’m not aware of any proven case where the fracking process itself has affected water.”

As you know, New Jersey is not a natural gas producing state, rendering this proposed law a purely political statement – one, nevertheless, that could set dangerous precedent if enacted.

The fact remains that American natural gas plays a key role in fueling New Jersey’s energy portfolio. According to the Energy Information Administration, New Jersey residents consume over 620 billion cubic feet of natural gas each year – much of which is produced by hydraulic fracturing employed in other states. In fact, 67 percent of New Jersey homes rely on clean-burning natural gas for heat and more than 33 percent of New Jersey’s electricity is fueled by natural gas.

Natural gas also underpins much of your state’s economic lifeblood, both as a necessary fuel and an industrial feedstock in the manufacturing of steel, glass, paper, textiles, bricks and fertilizer. New Jersey’s robust chemical industry’s ability to create and retain jobs relies on a stable natural gas supplies. Simply put, natural gas is a principal building block that fuels economic growth.

While the Marcellus Shale – the second largest natural gas field in the entire world – does not underlie New Jersey, there are clear environmental, economic and national security benefits that can be achieved through the expanded use of natural gas. And as the responsible development of the Marcellus Shale expands, so too will the benefits to New Jersey and the nation.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of our request to veto Senate Bill No. 2576.

Very truly yours,

Kathryn Zuberbuhler Klaber
President and Executive Director

cc: Lee Solomon, President, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities;
Richard Bagger, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Jeff Chiesa, Chief Counsel, Office of the Governor