



**Remarks of Steve Forde  
Vice President, Policy and Communications  
Marcellus Shale Coalition  
Before the Committee on Global Opportunities & Creative/Innovative Economy  
Philadelphia City Council  
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Councilman Oh, Senator Brubaker, and members of the Committee, my name is Steve Forde, Vice President of Policy and Communications for the Marcellus Shale Coalition. Our organization is comprised of approximately 300 member companies, each with the same focus: promoting the safe production of natural gas in the Commonwealth and throughout our region, while maximizing the economic, environmental, and energy security benefits of this clean-burning and versatile resource. We represent exploration, production, midstream, and local distribution companies, along with a dynamic supply chain comprised of environmental consulting, water management, engineering, and manufacturing firms, among others. One of our dozens of southeastern Pennsylvania member companies, TRC Solutions, is represented on today's panel.

Philadelphia is in a unique position. While true that neither the Marcellus nor Utica shale formations underlie southeastern Pennsylvania, it is also true that Greater Philadelphia is at the doorstep of one of the most important natural gas plays in the world. And the economic opportunities that exist because of it are abundant.

The clearest initial beneficiaries in southeastern Pennsylvania of responsible natural gas development across the Commonwealth have been consumers. For example, the region's largest natural gas utilities averaged a 41.25 percent cut in rates for consumers from 2008 to 2011, equating to nearly \$3,200 in average savings per customer during that period. These are real savings for families and businesses. State and local governments also are experiencing higher revenues directly attributable to our industry, from more tax dollars to impact fee payments that have yielded more than one million dollars to Philadelphia alone, without a single well drilled anywhere near the city limits.

Other economic beneficiaries, of course, are men and women who can attribute their jobs to the work of our industry. According to the state's Department of Labor & Industry, more than 240,000 Pennsylvanians are employed in an occupation connected to the natural gas development in some way. With sustained development of natural gas in the Commonwealth, that number should remain strong for years to come – including here in Greater Philadelphia as more economic opportunities are maximized in the supply chain and downstream industries, through exports, and in manufacturing.

As you know, Philadelphia's access to key waterways and markets has long positioned southeastern Pennsylvania as a powerful economic engine. Philadelphia's piers, and the region's economy, have long been sustained by energy resources, and natural gas is poised to play an even greater role. Consider Philadelphia's refinery sites. They are experiencing new life that few could have predicted just a few years ago – buoyed by abundant supplies of oil and natural gas, a fundamental building block for a strong manufacturing sector. Various acquisitions and investments are further proof of the undeniably positive impact that shale gas development continues to have on greater Philadelphia's economy. Indeed, despite the current economic difficulties, the long-term regional outlook is shifting – for the better.

City and civic leaders have the unique ability to position Philadelphia to take full advantage of these opportunities. We already are seeing signs of progress on this front. The Community College of Philadelphia, for example, has launched its Energy Training Center to prepare students in the region for careers in our growing industry, and other academic institutions – at all levels – have indicated an interest in doing the same. And business leaders in the region are stepping up as well, with the civic conversation turning from one focused on *whether* Philadelphia can benefit from natural gas development to one focused on *how* the region may best take advantage of this historic opportunity.

As an industry, we too share responsibility for conducting honest public education and outreach to key constituencies across the five-county region. To that end, we are in the midst of a Learn About Shale community conversation on natural gas, through which we are seeking and



answering the questions of men and women throughout Greater Philadelphia. Literally hundreds of questions have been asked through the web hub of this conversation – [www.learnaboutshale.org](http://www.learnaboutshale.org) – ranging from questions on environmental protections to economic opportunities to government regulations. We are committed to answering each straightforwardly, with facts.

Indeed, water quality has consistently been a priority here in Philadelphia, just as it is across the Commonwealth and nation. It is important to remember that through the many applicable regulations and water management plans required of our members, we are tightly regulated under the law. Whereas no drilling is currently happening in the Delaware River basin due to the DRBC's delays in issuing regulations, if that development were to take place in the near or distant future, it too would be tightly regulated and transparent.

We take seriously this responsibility to communicate with residents of this region with the transparency and openness that they expect and deserve. And I look forward to doing the same with you this afternoon as we examine the economic opportunities presented to this region by clean and abundant natural gas. Thank you again to Chairman Oh, Senator Brubaker, and members of the committee for the invitation to join you today.

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