



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sierra Club Supports Tax on Marcellus Gas

Harrisburg, PA, April 3, 2009 – The Pennsylvania Sierra Club testified today supporting a proposed gas severance tax on gas produced in the Marcellus Shale region of Pennsylvania. The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Fiscal Policy held hearings at the state Capitol to consider Governor Rendell’s proposal to levy a tax on natural gas produced in Pennsylvania. Thomas Au, conservation chair for the Sierra Club told the House members: “Gas drilling causes unavoidable and damaging environmental effects. A severance tax would compensate the Commonwealth for repairing the long-term damage to our environment.”

The Sierra Club pointed to the water quality problems that natural gas drilling has already caused. Given the long term environmental problems caused by natural gas drilling, including degradation of water quality, damage to forested land, and damage to roads by heavy truck traffic, the Sierra Club believes a severance tax to be a reasonable way to compensate the Commonwealth. A coalition of environmental groups has supported allocating a portion of the natural gas tax revenues to the Environmental Stewardship Fund, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Game Commission and local governments.

The Sierra Club's has more than 27,000 members in Pennsylvania. The Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

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