

21ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT

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Senate of Pennsylvania

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WILD RESOURCE CONSERVATION FUND

Letters to the Editor
The Butler Eagle
P.O. Box 271
Butler, PA 16003-0271

Dear Editor:

Len Schoettker would have your readers believe that I have sold my soul because my campaign committee received \$5,000 from coal, oil and gas industries. He even implies that I may have evaded campaign finance laws by receiving indirect benefits outside the law. To be clear, I have not and Mr. Schoettker should have some evidence before making such a public accusation against me, Mr. Corbett or any other elected official.

Have we really reached the point in public discourse where someone must have an ulterior motive because they *oppose* a tax increase? Is it not possible for reasonable people to simply disagree anymore?

Mr. Schoettker would also have readers believe that I am an industry apologist. To be sure, I am proud of my history with Quaker State; it was a good employer in our region, and we lost it to Texas because of Pennsylvania's business climate. So I make no apologies about being excited over the prospects of Marcellus Shale. However, I have also been a strong supporter of ensuring that drilling is done right. My committee helped enacted a new Marcellus disclosure law. I voted for higher permitting fees on industry that has doubled the number of DEP inspectors. I also supported new wastewater treatment and oil and gas well construction standards that Governor Rendell calls the "toughest in the nation".

My committee website demonstrates a commitment to transparency. Constituents can read up on my views, share their thoughts directly with me, review bills and amendments voted on by the committee and access other important resources. I also provide access to a balanced list of resources concerning Marcellus Shale, including: PA Environmental Council, PA Council of Trout Unlimited, PennEnvironment, the League of Women Voters, information on violations committed by drilling companies and others. Mr. Schoettker fails to mention all of this information in his letter.

As an elected official, I respect the fact that at times constituents and I will disagree. However, we should be able to debate and discuss issues in a respectful manner, without questioning each other's motives.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo White
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SENATOR, 21ST DISTRICT