



# Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

**Senator Mary Jo White**  
Chairman

*Adam Pankake, Executive Director*

Room 169 • State Capitol Building  
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March 23, 2011

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

Dear Editor:

In his recent opinion piece (*Support for bill criticized*), Michael Badges-Canning incorrectly states that Senate Bill 477 would “steal landowners’ property with state sanction” and “would allow forced pooling, eminent domain for extractive purposes.” This is wrong on several fronts.

First of all, Senate Bill 477 pertains to the compelled removal of outdoor advertising displays. I assume the legislation he intends to refer to is Senate Bill 447, which allows for the integration of ***multiple oil and gas interests of owners engaged in the business of extracting oil or gas*** into a land unit where all parties share in well ownership and/or royalties in proportion to the amount of land their tract contributes to the whole unit.

SB 447 would only impact properties with mineral rights already leased or sold to a natural gas company. On page 7 of the bill, under section 3421, it clearly states there will be NO impact on a landowner who has made a personal choice to refrain from development on his or her property. I believe all landowners have the right to participate if they so choose. It makes no reference whatsoever to eminent domain.

I have always been a strong supporter of private property rights. I’ve worked closely with the prime sponsor of this legislation to allow orderly development of the Marcellus shale, without impacting landowner rights. This legislation does just that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jo White".

Mary Jo White, Chairman  
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& Energy Committee  
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