



Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Senator Mary Jo White
Chairman

Patrick Henderson, Executive Director

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Letter to the Editor
Butler Eagle
114 West Diamond Street
P.O. Box 271
Butler, PA 16001

Dear Editor:

John Wise's recent editorial claims Governor Rendell's energy proposal is not fully understood by the public or legislature. After reading his editorial, I think Mr. Wise could be included in this category.

One of the biggest obstacles to the Governor's package is that his actual draft legislation reflects little of his rhetoric. The bills give the Governor unlimited ability to borrow money and spend it on projects of his choosing. Our children will still be paying the debt in 2037.

The Governor seeks to mandate the use of less environmentally friendly and more expensive fuel. The bills create a state-owned power authority – which was a colossal failure in California. The Governor seeks to mandate utilities purchase more expensive, less reliable energy for Pennsylvanians – all under the guise of mitigating higher electric prices when rate caps come off.

I co-chaired two informative public hearings on the Governor's strategy. All of this information is available online at www.senatormjwhite.com/environmental.htm. I've also attached copies of each bill for you to actually read.

The energy package is the latest in a parade of items Rendell insists on before signing a budget. Passing this off as a small charge on electric bills misses the point – it is simply irresponsible to hold a budget, affecting millions of Pennsylvanians, hostage to force a vote on flawed public policy. I also don't know of any business owner or manufacturer who regards a new \$10,000 electric tax as insignificant.

For nearly three months, no one from Rendell's Cabinet sought to meet with leaders of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to discuss the energy strategy. Only within the last week has this become such an urgent priority. It speaks volumes that the Rendell electric tax has yet to pass even the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives.

Perhaps that's because they are starting to pay attention to the details.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Jo White, Chairman
Senate Environmental Resources
& Energy Committee

Enclosure