



Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Senator Mary Jo White
Chairman

Adam Pankake, Executive Director

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Letters to the Editor
Towanda Daily Review
116 Main St.
Towanda, PA 18848

Dear Editor:

The Towanda Daily Review recently referred to me as “pro-industry” and wrote that I’ve “opposed stronger environmental regulation of the industry.” Unfortunately, this assertion is completely misleading and unfair. I take the protection of our environment seriously. I have negotiated and supported a number of key environmental statutes, such as Growing Greener I and II, the Water Resources Planning Act, the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act, the Alternative Energy Investment Act and extension of the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

Pennsylvania is a national leader in regulating the gas industry. As the Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and member of the Environmental Quality Board, I have supported regulations which substantially upgraded standards for the disposal of wastewater. The new standards are some of the most stringent requirements in the country.

Additionally, I voted in favor of higher drilling permit fees, which doubled the enforcement staff regulating the industry, the open and transparent production reporting requirements in Act 15 and increased safeguard provisions in the Chapter 78 oil and gas standards. The Chapter 78 revisions contain stringent requirements for drilling, casing, cementing, testing, monitoring and plugging oil and gas wells, and the protection of water supplies.

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation which will substantially increase well bonding standards. I’ve also co-sponsored Senator Yaw’s legislation which will require increased water safety measures.

My record shows that I am not opposed to stronger regulation of the industry or the protection of the environment.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Jo White, Chairman
Senate Environmental Resources
& Energy Committee
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