

# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

From Milliron and Goodman Government Relations, LLC, Harrisburg, PA

**Berks County  
Water & Sewer  
ASSOCIATION**

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## Bill Taking Money from Farmers for Conservation Work at the Time They Need it Most to be Considered by House Committee June 22

On June 22, the House State Government Committee is scheduled to consider **Senate Bill 575** (Yaw-R-Lycoming) <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?year=2019&sInd=0&body=S&type=B&bn=575> which takes money away from conservation efforts by farmers at precisely the time farmers need it most.

The bill was introduced with the support of the **Coalition for Affordable Bay Solutions** <http://affordablebaysolutions.org/>, an industry-led coalition of private companies promoting expensive manure treatment technologies and manure to energy processing plants.

The complicated, time consuming process in Senate Bill 575 would guarantee only large companies with access to lots of resources could take part in the complicated bidding process established in the bill. These companies typically

promote higher cost bricks and mortar treatment solutions to deliver nutrient pollution reductions.

No small farmer, who could install much cheaper Best Management Practices in terms of cost per pound of pollution reduced through the installation of proven green infrastructure, would bother to participate in bidding with all that upfront expense and paperwork.

If the only people who can bid in these complicated processes are companies with the more expensive options, this process will guarantee it presents agencies with the choice of only picking more expensive options.

An **amendment to be offered in Committee** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WTFeDhwRujrj5VCdVntkdxYzfgez4fcp/view> makes this bill no better.

Any taxpayer money used to support this complicated scheme to promote more expensive nutrient reduction solutions is money taken away from farmers who need it most.

The meeting will be held on **June 22 in Room G-50 of the Irvis Building at the Call of the Chair**, which means it could be held at any time after the House convenes at 1:00 p.m. **Click here**

## to watch

online <http://www.pahousegop.com/livestreams>.

Rep. Garth Everett (R-Lycoming) serves as Majority Chair of the House State Government Committee and can be contacted by calling 717-787-5270 or sending email to: [geverett@pahousegop.com](mailto:geverett@pahousegop.com). Rep. Kevin Boyle (D-Montgomery) serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted by calling 717-783-4944 or sending email to: [RepKevinBoyle@pahouse.net](mailto:RepKevinBoyle@pahouse.net).

## Cost-Effective Solutions

Stakeholder-driven **Chesapeake Bay Watershed Plan for Pennsylvania**  
[https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pennsylvania%20Chesapeake%20Bay%20Program%20Office/WIP3/Pages/Phase-III-WIP-\(Watershed-Implementation-Plans\).aspx](https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pennsylvania%20Chesapeake%20Bay%20Program%20Office/WIP3/Pages/Phase-III-WIP-(Watershed-Implementation-Plans).aspx) found there was a deficit of \$324 million in funding needed each year for the next six years to clean up streams and rivers in the 42-county Bay watershed.

Two-thirds of that funding was needed by farmers to implement low-cost, effective on-farm conservation measures like stream buffers, increasing soil health, expanded nutrient management and manure storage facilities and efforts to increase compliance with existing requirements. *Read more here*  
[http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Water/ChesapeakeBayOffice/WIPIII/2020/Summary\\_Documents/Agricultural%20Best%20Management%20Practices%203020-HD-DEP5258.pdf](http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Water/ChesapeakeBayOffice/WIPIII/2020/Summary_Documents/Agricultural%20Best%20Management%20Practices%203020-HD-DEP5258.pdf).

Matt Johnston of the University of Maryland Chesapeake Bay Program and Dr. Emily Trentacoste of the U.S. Geological Survey presented the PA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Planning Steering Committee with a list of the top 11 most cost effective practices to reduce nitrogen going to the Chesapeake Bay based on all this experience and data in the Chesapeake Bay Program (**page 73 of his presentation**  
[http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Water/ChesapeakeBayOffice/WIPIII/PA%20PhaseIIIWIP%20SC%209\\_27\\_2017%20Draft.pdf](http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Water/ChesapeakeBayOffice/WIPIII/PA%20PhaseIIIWIP%20SC%209_27_2017%20Draft.pdf)).

The practices include alternative crops on farmland at \$1/pound of nitrogen reduced to exclusion fencing with grass buffers at \$6/pound. In between are-- less expensive to more -- were water quality conservation plans, grass buffers on row crops, barnyard runoff control, water control structures, wetland restoration, forest buffers on row crops (\$2/pound), narrow buffers on row crops, narrow forest buffers on row crops and nutrient management on the land.

None of the top 11 most cost effective practices included bricks and mortar treatment solutions which, in one manure treatment configuration, can need a cost of from \$10 to \$13/pound to operate the promoters have said.

An existing, competitive **Nutrient Credit Auction Program**  
<https://www.pennvest.pa.gov/migration/Pages/19518.aspx> run by the PA Infrastructure Investment Authority resulted in nitrogen credit sales of **\$2.25 per pound**  
<https://ihsmarkit.com/products/environmental-registry.html> in September 2018.

Since the more expensive pollution reduction technology cannot compete in this market-based program because their costs are too high, a new one had to be created in Senate Bill 575.

In addition, a **stakeholder group convened in 2013**  
<http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=26297>, including farmers, local officials, environmental groups and legislative representatives, did not see a similar proposal as a useful tool in an already complex Chesapeake Bay Program. *Read more here*  
<http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=47089>.

For more information on how Pennsylvania plans to meet its Chesapeake Bay cleanup obligations, visit **DEP's PA Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan webpage**  
[https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pennsylvania%20Chesapeake%20Bay%20Program%20Office/WIP3/Pages/Phase-III-WIP-\(Watershed-Implementation-Plans\).aspx](https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pennsylvania%20Chesapeake%20Bay%20Program%20Office/WIP3/Pages/Phase-III-WIP-(Watershed-Implementation-Plans).aspx).

Source: PA Environmental Digest, 6/18/2020

## 28th Legislative District Office to Remain Open Speaker of the House Turzai resigns seat

**O**n June 15, 2020, House Majority Leader Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster County) announced the district office of former Speaker of the House Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny) will remain open until a successor is elected in November.

Turzai's resignation took effect at noon today, which created the 28th Legislative District vacancy, Cutler said.

Cutler becomes the acting presiding officer in the absence of the speaker according to a statutory provision in the Act of Jan. 10, 1968, (1967), P.L. 925, as amended (46 P.S. §42.121m) which states: "If any vacancy shall occur during the recess of the Legislature in the office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the duties of said office shall be performed by the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives."

The district office of the former member will remain open and managed by District Director Sara Bresnahan Kennedy to assist constituents with issues or problems and continue constituent inquiries already in progress. The district represents the following communities: Borough of Bradford Woods, Borough of Franklin Park, Town of McCandless, Marshall Township and Township of Pine.

The office will be supervised by the House and will remain open until a new representative takes office and decides how to manage the district. The 28th Legislative District Office information follows:

Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
125 Hillvue Lane, 1st Floor  
Town of McCandless  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

412-369-2230

The website, <http://www.repturzai.com/>, will continue to offer information and links to constituent services.

Source: Rep. Bryan Cutler Press Release, 6/15/2020

## Gov. Wolf: PA is One of Three States Recognized by CDC for COVID-19 Reduction Success

**A**s states across the country begin to reopen and nearly half are seeing COVID-19 cases rise, Governor Tom Wolf announced <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-states-measured-phased-reopening-plan-succeeding-as-other-states-see-cases-rise/> that Pennsylvania is not one of them.

Today at a daily COVID briefing with Health Secretary Dr. Rachel Levine, he noted another milestone: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention proprietary data for states indicates that we are one of just three states that have had a downward trajectory of COVID-19 cases for more than 42 days. The other two states are Montana and Hawaii.

"We know our decline in cases is because of our choices because more than half of states are experiencing an increase in COVID-19 cases as reopening begins," Gov. Wolf said. "Many of these states are experiencing significant case increases tied to reopening too soon or too much. Pennsylvania is not. We have remained focused on balancing economic interests with public health."

Gov. Wolf pointed to the decision to require masks when visiting businesses even in counties in the green phase as another smart decision that could have lasting effects as a COVID-19 surge is possible this fall.

"Recently, more studies show that masks prevent people from unknowingly giving COVID-19 to

others," Wolf said. "This includes peer-reviewed studies published in scientific journals like The New England Journal of Medicine.

"As the U.S. Surgeon General said a few days ago, wearing a mask doesn't impinge on our freedom - it gives us more freedom from unknowingly spreading COVID-19."

According to other data analyses, including those by **Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center**

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data/new-cases-50-states> and **The New York Times**

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>, Pennsylvania's steady decline in cases since April put the state among a select few that continue a flattening of the curve. This distinction is particularly important as more counties reopen.

"Pennsylvanians have done an excellent job at demonstrating how to balance business and public health," Gov. Wolf said. "If we keep this up, we can continue to be a model to other states and a leader at saving lives and livelihoods during this pandemic."

For the latest information on COVID-19 in Pennsylvania, including a **data dashboard**, visit here <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Cases.aspx>.

Find the latest Carnegie Mellon University **metrics for reopening** here

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/20200617-CMU-Risk-Based-Decision-Support-Tool.pdf>.

Find more on Gov. Wolf's **Process to Open PA** here <https://www.governor.pa.gov/process-to-reopen-pennsylvania/>.

**Source:** Governor Wolf's Press Office, 6/17/2020

## Gov. Wolf: Mask-Wearing is Required, Critical to Stop COVID-19 Spread

On June 18, 2020 Governor Tom Wolf reminded Pennsylvanians that mask-wearing is required when entering any business in all counties in the state in both yellow and green phases of reopening. Masks are considered critical in stopping the spread of COVID, now and in preparation for a possible resurgence of the virus in the fall.

The mask requirement is part of Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel's Levine's **order** <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/20200415-SOH-worker-safety-order.pdf>, "Directing Public Health Safety Measures for Businesses Permitted to Maintain In-person Operations," which pertains to all counties regardless of the phase of reopening.

"In yellow and green counties, it is required that masks are worn when visiting businesses to protect employees, employees' families, and communities as a whole," Gov. Wolf said. "Mask-wearing has proven to be an important deterrent to the spread of the virus, and as more counties move to green and more things reopen, we need to be vigilant in our efforts to continue our mitigation efforts."

A recent **study**

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2020836> from Cambridge and Greenwich universities in the United Kingdom found that cloth masks, "even homemade masks with limited effectiveness can dramatically reduce transmission rates if worn by enough people, regardless of whether they show symptoms."

Peer-reviewed studies published in scientific journals such as **The New England Journal of Medicine** <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2020836> corroborate the need for masks and the U.S. Surgeon General said that wearing a mask doesn't impinge on our freedom - it gives us more freedom from unknowingly spreading COVID-19.

The state's **business guidance**

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/business-guidance/> outlines mask-wearing requirements and additional safety parameters for both employees and customers.

Read more on Gov. Wolf's **Process to Reopen PA** here <https://www.governor.pa.gov/process-to-reopen-pennsylvania/>.

Source: Governor Wolf's Press Office, 6/18/2020

## Pennsylvania Chambers of Commerce Urge Safe Harbor Protections for Business

**P**A Chamber of Business and Industry President and CEO Gene Barr issued the following statement after a coalition of 80 chambers of commerce throughout the Commonwealth sent a **letter to Pennsylvania's federal and state lawmakers** [https://www.pachamber.org/advocacy/legislative\\_agenda/communications/Chamber\\_community\\_employer\\_protections\\_letter\\_061720.pdf](https://www.pachamber.org/advocacy/legislative_agenda/communications/Chamber_community_employer_protections_letter_061720.pdf) urging support for safe harbor protections for employers related to COVID-19 in the pandemic era:

"Pennsylvania employers have faced unimaginable challenges during this pandemic, the mandatory business shutdown and resulting economic fallout. Many now face the threat of unwarranted, opportunistic lawsuits, including hospitals and many healthcare professionals bravely treating patients, companies who have been working to keep our critical supply chains intact, manufacturers producing personal protective equipment and others on the front lines. Businesses that have stayed open to serve communities, as well as those who were forced to shut down but have managed to survive, should feel confident that if they take the necessary steps to comply with public health and safety guidelines, they are protected from unscrupulous plaintiffs' attorneys seeking to profit from this disaster."

"Pennsylvania employers have the talent, ingenuity and grit to rebound and rebuild, but they need smart policies out of Harrisburg and Washington D.C. to help remove obstacles to economic recovery. We urge Pennsylvania's lawmakers to recognize this particular significant obstacle, as well as the hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvania depending on them to act."

"Pennsylvania's chambers of commerce are effective and passionate advocates for the businesses in their communities. Employers should be proud and lawmakers should take heed that so many chambers from throughout the Commonwealth have come together to support a most critical issue at this most critical time."

The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry is the state's largest broad-based business association, with its statewide membership comprising businesses of all sizes and across all industry sectors.

Source: PA Chamber Press Release, 6/17/2020

## PUC Damage Prevention Committee Actions Announced Against Underground Facility Owners, Excavators and Project Owners

**A** total of 228 disciplinary actions, including \$119,600 in administrative penalties, have been taken against 79 underground facility owners, excavators and project owners in the **latest enforcement actions** [http://www.puc.pa.gov/transport/gassafe/pdf/DPC\\_Agendas/2020/DPC\\_Case\\_Summaries060920.pdf](http://www.puc.pa.gov/transport/gassafe/pdf/DPC_Agendas/2020/DPC_Case_Summaries060920.pdf) by the Public Utility Commission's (PUC's) Damage Prevention Committee (DPC). These actions were taken during the DPC's June 2020 telephonic meeting. The DPC is tasked with enforcing the state's Underground Utility Line Protection Act - also known as the "PA One Call Law."

A comprehensive **list of summaries and actions** [http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility\\_industry/transportation/pa\\_one\\_call\\_enforcement/dpc\\_agendas/Actions.aspx](http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility_industry/transportation/pa_one_call_enforcement/dpc_agendas/Actions.aspx) from DPC meetings is available on the PUC's website. Penalties are payable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Commission will offset the costs of administering this program through the penalties collected.

## Digging Safety - PA One Call

Every year, underground lines across the state are struck more than 6,000 times - which means that during the average workday a pipeline or other vital utility system is hit every 20 minutes. While underground lines are often "out of sight and out of mind," every hit poses a risk to the contractors and homeowners who are doing the digging; to utility workers and emergency responders who are mobilized when lines are struck; and to bystanders who live, work or travel near the locations of the incidents.

State law requires contractors and residents to contact **PA One Call** <https://www.palcall.org/PA811/Public/> at least three business days prior to excavation - triggering alerts to all utilities within an intended digging area and prompting utilities to mark where their facilities are located. Pennsylvanians can dial 8-1-1 to connect with the One Call system, while out-of-state residents or businesses can call 1-800-242-1776.

### About the DPC

The DPC is a peer-based group of 13 representatives, nominated by their industry or affiliated organization and appointed by the PUC.

The DPC meets regularly to review alleged violations of Act 50 and make informal determinations as to the appropriate response including, but not limited to, the issuance of warning letters, mandatory training programs and/or administrative penalties. The DPC holds regular public meetings in Hearing Room 1 of the Commonwealth Keystone Building in Harrisburg. Each meeting is **livestreamed on the PUC's website**

[http://www.puc.pa.gov/about\\_puc/live\\_streaming\\_video.aspx](http://www.puc.pa.gov/about_puc/live_streaming_video.aspx) where **summaries of actions** [http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility\\_industry/transportation/pa\\_one\\_call\\_enforcement/dpc\\_agendas\\_Actions.aspx](http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility_industry/transportation/pa_one_call_enforcement/dpc_agendas_Actions.aspx) taken at those meetings also can be viewed.

However, due to the unique circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the DPC has been conducting its public meetings telephonically - to help minimize non-essential personal social

contact - as is consistent with the Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency and the requirements of the Public Utility Code.

Modeled after successful programs in other states, the focus of the DPC is to reduce the number of "hits" on underground lines and utilities.

Creation of the committee was authorized by **Act 50 of 2017** [http://www.puc.pa.gov/about\\_puc/press\\_releases.aspx?ShowPR=3918](http://www.puc.pa.gov/about_puc/press_releases.aspx?ShowPR=3918), which enhances Pennsylvania's Underground Utility Line Protection Act - also known as the "One Call Law."

### About the Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement

As the independent investigation and enforcement bureau of the PUC, I&E enforces state and federal pipeline safety, electric safety and motor carrier safety laws and regulations and represents the public interest in ratemaking and service matters before the PUC's Office of Administrative Law Judge. I&E has the authority to bring enforcement action, seek emergency orders from the Commission or take other steps to ensure public safety.

**Source:** PUC Press Release, 6/17/2020

## **PUC Details \$200 Million Distribution of Gas Drilling Impact Fees to Pennsylvania Communities; Total Distribution Tops \$1.9 Billion**

**O**n June 17, 2020, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) posted detailed information about this year's distribution of impact fees on natural gas producers - totaling \$200,364,500 - on the PUC's **Act 13 website** <https://www.act13-reporting.puc.pa.gov/Modules/PublicReporting/Overview.aspx>.

With this year's distribution, the PUC over the past nine years, has collected and distributed over \$1.9 billion to communities across Pennsylvania.

County and municipal governments directly affected by drilling will receive a total of \$109,180,326 for the 2019 reporting year. Additionally, \$72,186,900 will be transferred to the Marcellus Legacy Fund, which provides financial support for environmental, highway, water and sewer projects, rehabilitation of greenways and other projects throughout the state. Also, \$18,397,250 will be distributed to state agencies, as specified by Act 13.

The PUC has forwarded the information to the Department of Treasury for payment and expects checks to be distributed in early July.

This year's distribution is approximately \$42.6 million lower than last year, driven primarily by the average price of natural gas in 2019 (\$2.63 per MMBtu) versus the average price in 2018 (\$3.09 per MMBtu) which caused a lower impact fee payment for each well in 2019.

The distributions for individual municipalities are detailed on the PUC's **Act 13 website** <https://www.act13-reporting.puc.pa.gov/Modules/PublicReporting/Overview.aspx>.

Extensive details regarding the impact fee distribution are available online, including specifics on funds collected and distributed for each year since 2011. Visitors can search and download statistics such as distributions to individual municipalities or counties; allocation and usage of those funds, based on reports submitted by various municipalities; eligible wells per county/municipality; and payments by producers.

The PUC is responsible for implementing the collection and distribution of an unconventional gas well fee (also called an Impact Fee), established by the Unconventional Gas Well Impact Fee Act and signed into law as Act 13 of 2012.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission balances the needs of consumers and utilities; ensures safe and reliable utility service at

reasonable rates; protects the public interest; educates consumers to make independent and informed utility choices; furthers economic development; and fosters new technologies and competitive markets in an environmentally sound manner.

Visit the PUC's website at <http://www.puc.pa.gov/> for recent news releases and video of select proceedings. You can also follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube. Search for the "Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission" or "PA PUC" on your favorite social media channel for updates on utility issues and other helpful consumer information.

**Source:** PUC Press Release, 6/17/2020

## Pennsylvania's Unemployment Rate At 13.1 Percent in May

**O**n June 19, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) released its employment situation report for May 2020. The May unemployment and jobs surveys collected data that referenced the week from May 10 – 16 prior to many counties moving to the yellow phase of reopening from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate was down 3.0 percentage points over the month to 13.1 percent in May. The national rate fell 1.4 percentage points from May to 13.3 percent. The commonwealth's unemployment rate increased by 89 percentage points from May 2019 while the national rate was up 9.7 points over the year.

Pennsylvania's civilian labor force – the estimated number of residents working or looking for work – was up 23,000 over the month. Resident employment was up 211,000 while unemployment declined by 188,000.

Pennsylvania's total nonfarm jobs were up 198,300 over the month to 5,191,400 in May. May's gain was the largest single-month increase on record. Jobs increased in 9 of the 11 industry

supersectors. The largest volume gain was an increase of 77,400 in construction, which recovered over two-thirds of its March and April losses.

Over the year, total nonfarm jobs in Pennsylvania were down 863,800 with declines in each of the 11 supersectors. The largest volume 12-month change among supersectors was a decline of 300,100 jobs in leisure & hospitality.

Additional information is available on the L&I website at <http://www.dli.pa.gov/>.

**Note:** The above data are seasonally adjusted. Seasonally adjusted data provide the most valid month-to-month comparison.

**Source:** PA Department of Labor & Industry Press Release, 6/19, 2020

## AG Shapiro and 43rd Statewide Grand Jury File Criminal Charges Against NEPA Fracking Company

VIDEO

ANNOUNCEMENT: <https://youtu.be/8BBaqSLTLIg>

On June 15, 2020, Attorney General Josh Shapiro announced that the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General is formally charging Cabot Oil and Gas, an unconventional gas, or "fracking," company, for environmental crimes that occurred in northeastern Pennsylvania. The charges come as part of a **two-year Grand Jury investigation** <https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-06-15-Cabot-Presentment.pdf> into environmental crimes committed by unconventional oil and gas companies across the Commonwealth.

"Pennsylvanians understand the careful balance that a strong natural resource economy requires - and companies who put their own profit above our laws, our health, and our constitutional right to clean and pure water will be held accountable," said Attorney General Shapiro in a video released today.

"Fracking companies come from all over the nation, backed by big investors and big influence, and too often act like they're above the law with no care for the worker on the job site, the farmer next door, or the child impacted by their drilling. We're here to hold these companies accountable, and make sure no matter how powerful or well-connected, the law applies equally in our Commonwealth."

The Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, in conjunction with the 43rd Statewide Grand Jury, is charging Cabot with 7 counts of Prohibition Against Discharge of Industrial Wastes, 7 counts of Prohibition Against Other Pollutions and one count of Unlawful Conduct under the Clean Streams Law.

The Grand Jury's investigation into the contamination of well water in Dimock, Susquehanna County, revealed that Cabot's fracking activities were responsible for methane pollution in the local water supply. This contamination led to several Dimock residents suffering from the environmental hazards associated with repeated methane exposure, including Norma Fiorentino's drinking water well exploding in January 2009.

The Grand Jury heard testimony from several residents, one of whom was a former Cabot employee. This individual had several Cabot gas wells on their property. The former employee trusted that their former employer had told them the truth about the possibility of water contamination. However, after several neighbors noticed that their water was cloudy and full of black specks, the former employee tested their own water supply: when they held up a match to a jug of the water that they used to bathe and drink, it caught fire.

Another resident whose testimony was heard by the Grand Jury said that when Cabot came to town, employees had told them that Cabot could drill wells on their property without the resident's agreement. The resident recounted that after agreeing to have gas wells installed on their property, they began experiencing similar issues with their water. The resident testified that the family had to stop drinking their methane-contaminated water. In order to supply the home with this necessity, the resident began making a regular 14-mile round trip to pick up drinking water.



When the resident contacted the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protections to ask when their water would be clean again, they were told that the water would be clean again in several years. A decade later, at the time of their appearance before the grand jury, the issue had remained unresolved.

"The Grand Jury presentments prove that Cabot took shortcuts that broke the law, and damaged our environment - harming our water supply and public health," concluded Attorney General Shapiro. "They put their bottom line ahead of the health and safety of Pennsylvanians. The Grand Jury repeatedly found evidence of a company that placed profit over our laws. If it's against the law, and it hurts Pennsylvanians, we're here to stop it - no matter how powerful or well-connected you are," said AG Shapiro.

"We are in the first stages of a long process to hold the well-connected accountable and meet the promise of our constitution to protect our environment for generations to come.

We must protect Pennsylvanians; it is what we are dedicated to every day. This work will not stop. Our waters, air, and resources will be protected for this generation and the next to come."

**Source:** AG Shapiro Press Release, 6/15/2020

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***This newsletter provides general information, not legal advice as to any specific matter. It should not be used as a substitute for appropriate legal advice.***