

July 14, 2020

RE: Oppose Deal Cut on Petrochemical Subsidies

Dear Member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly:

As you may have already been told, a deal has been reached between Gov. Wolf and the General Assembly leadership to pass language mirroring the massive tax credit for petrochemical manufacturing that was included in House Bill 1100. This language includes a 26-year, \$693 million tax break for these polluting industries, which was amended in the Senate into House Bill 732.

On behalf of the organizations below, we ask you to vote against House Bill 732 (PN 4118).

Giving massive tax breaks to dirty fossil fuel-based industries is bad for our health, planet, and the taxpayers of Pennsylvania at any time, but especially so in the midst of a massive economic downturn where many of the state's residents are suffering.

Just two weeks ago, Pennsylvania's Attorney General came out with a scathing report that reaffirmed the legacy of pollution created by fracking and fracking-related activities. This includes chronic air and water pollution, climate pollution, and the legacy of plastic pollution that is plaguing the planet.

One of the most egregious components of this legislation is that it will make it harder to address climate change. The world's top scientists agree that if we are going to have any chance to avoid the worst effects of climate change, we must completely halt our reliance on fossil fuels and their emissions by 2050. Yet these subsidies would remain in place until 2050, all but ensuring that the Commonwealth will be propping up and financially supporting climate pollution right up until the very deadline we're so desperate to meet.

We respectfully submit that this is not the kind of investment that the General Assembly should be making during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, when millions of Pennsylvanians are struggling to put food on their tables and pay their rent, utility bills, and healthcare. Frankly, this kind of giveaway is outrageous and appalling and is firmly out of step with the priorities of Pennsylvanians during these tough times.

Given this, we call on you to oppose any amendment that will give these massive tax breaks to frackers and petrochemical companies and instead work to financially support businesses that won't leave a legacy of pollution and environmental destruction for our children, grandchildren and future generations.

This deal cut on petrochemical subsidies is simply not in the best interest of our Commonwealth's citizens today and in the future. We ask that you VOTE NO on HB 732 and its dangerous amendment.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like further information.

Sincerely,

David Masur, Executive Director

PennEnvironment

Jacquelyn Bonomo, President & CEO

PennFuture

Mark Szybist, Senior Attorney
Natural Resources Defense Council

Joseph Minott, Executive Director & Chief Counsel
Clean Air Council

Edith Abeyta
North Braddock Residents for Our Future

Edward C. Ketyer, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Pennsylvania

Joy Bergey, Director, EJ Center
Chestnut Hill United Church

Matthew Mehalik, Ph.D., Executive Director
Breathe Project

Sharon Pillar, PA Consultant
Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)

Jennifer Quinn, Legislative & Political Director
Sierra Club - Pennsylvania Chapter

Katie Blume, Political Director
Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania

Amy Bruckner, Secretary
Guardians of the Brandywine

Leigh Altadonna, Ed.D., President
Wyncote Audubon Society

Kathleen Krebs, R.N.
Allegheny County Clean Air Now (ACCAN)

Liz Robinson, President
Philadelphia Solar Energy Association

Vera Cole, President
Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Association

Ron Celentano, President
PA Solar Energy Industries Association

Nora Johnson, Secretary
Beaver County MAC

Ted Evgeniadis, Riverkeeper
Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Assn.

Steve Hvozdovich, PA Campaigns Director
Clean Water Action

Steve Luxton, Executive Director
Energy Coordinating Agency

Shannon Gority, PA Executive Director
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Alison L. Steele, Executive Director
Environmental Health Project

Joylette Portlock, Ph.D., Executive Director
Sustainable Pittsburgh

Tracey DePasquale, Director
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA

Gail Murray, Director of Communications
Communities First - Sewickley Valley

Lynn Robinson, Director
Neighbors Against Gas Plants

Rev. Alison Cornish, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light

Brook Lenker, Executive Director
FracTracker Alliance

Elizabeth Koniers Brown, Director, DRW Program
Audubon Pennsylvania

Rev. Dai Morgan, Director
United Methodist Advocacy in PA

Peter Winslow, Executive Director
A SMART Collaboration LLC (ASC)

Sam Bernhardt, Senior PA Organizer
Food & Water Watch

Michael DiMonte, Convener, WFJ Ministry
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Stacy Carr-Poole, Executive Director
Bucks County Audubon Society

Heidi Shiver
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Brooke Garcher, Catherine Lowther-Jones
RECLAIM Philly Climate Justice Coalition

Jeanne Allen
Climate Action Network PA

Tanya Casas
Bucks County Ready for 100

Betsy Nicholas, Executive Director
Waterkeepers Chesapeake

Michael T. Sellers, Esq., President
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Rev. Allen Drew, East Coast Regional Organizer
CRC Climate Witness Project

Jose Ferran
Turning Points for Children

Sharon Furlong
Bucks Environmental Action

Peg Shaw
Toxic Free Philly

Karen Feridun, Founder
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Janice Etchison, Treasurer
Our Water, Our Air, Our Rights – Erie

Diane Sipe, President
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Karen Feridun, Founder
Better Path Coalition

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One Hope Community Church, PHL

Robert Cross, President
Responsible Drilling Alliance

Barbara Jarmoska, President
Project CoffeeHouse

Sue Murawski, President
Presque Isle Audubon Society

Leann Leiter, PA & OH Field Advocate
Earthworks

Rabbi Julie Greenberg, Climate Justice & Jobs
POWER: An Interfaith Movement

Hilary Baum, NWPhilly Climate Action Network
Philadelphia Neighborhood Networks

Lisa Widawsky Hallowell, Lisa Graves-Marcucci
Environmental Integrity Project

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Maya K. van Rossum, Delaware Riverkeeper & CEO
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Rev. Joan M. Sabatino, Director
Unitarian Universalist PA Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN)

Rev. Sandra L. Strauss, Director of Advocacy & Ecumenical Outreach
Pennsylvania Council of Churches