



August 5, 2026

The Honorable Jessica Shirley
Secretary of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Dear Secretary Shirley:

As you know, the Department of Environmental Protection currently is studying a rulemaking petition submitted by the Marcellus Shale Coalition, the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance, and the Pennsylvania Independent Oil and Gas Association related to the plugging of oil and natural gas wells to their attainable bottom. This issue was also the subject of Senate Bill 712, as introduced in the General Assembly.

Given that this issue was substantially addressed with the enactment of Act 21 of 2026, I am writing on behalf of all three organizations to request the withdrawal of our previously submitted rulemaking petition. Given this development, we do not believe there is merit in expending additional Commonwealth resources studying this petition.

We are appreciative of Senator Gene Yaw for advancing this issue in the General Assembly, and for the collaborative efforts of the Governor's Office and Department staff to find common ground as reflected in Act 21.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Welty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jim Welty, President
Marcellus Shale Coalition

cc: Rachel Gleason, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Coal Alliance
Dan Weaver, President and Executive Director
Pennsylvania Independent Oil and Gas Association
Honorable Gene Yaw, Chairman
Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee
Sam Robinson, Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor

