

thedailyreview.com

With offices in Towanda, Sayre, and Troy Pa.

HOME NEWS SPORTS OPINION ARTS & LIVING CLASSIFIEDS CUSTOMER SERVICE  
BUSINESS | COURTS/POLICE | GLANCING BACKWA

Search bars with "Enter a search term..." and "Search" buttons.

# Senator preparing Marcellus package

BY ROBERT SWIFT (HARRISBURG BUREAU CHIEF)

Published: January 28, 2011

### ARTICLE TOOLS

SHARE | FONT SIZE: [A] [A] [A]  
SIGN UP: NEWSLETTER

HARRISBURG - The Marcellus Shale drilling boom is prompting a state senator to prepare bills addressing a host of issues ranging from "pooling" on company-leased land only to applying the hotel room tax to long-term company rentals.

Some of the proposals by Sen. Gene Yaw, R-23, Williamsport, break new ground in terms of legislative issues and result from the way the drilling boom is casting a wide net across Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan and Susquehanna

counties in his district.

The senator said Thursday that one bill would allow pooling or drilling for underground gas deposits only on parcels of property that have already been leased to drilling companies. This "company-to-company" pooling would apply to situations where one company wants to drill on leased land, but is hindered by another company that doesn't want to cooperate in developing an adjacent leased area for its own competitive advantage.

He stressed this proposal would have no impact on private landowners who decline to lease their land.

"There are no private landowner rights involved at all," added Yaw.

This has been a controversial subject since the natural gas industry indicated last year that it favored state regulations allowing pooling on private land even if the property owner didn't lease it.

Yaw said his goal is to develop the Marcellus Shale deposits with a minimum number of drilling wells and help landowners who have been stymied in seeing their leased land developed because other drilling companies are holding out.

The influx of drilling rig crews has created a housing shortage in the region. As a result, drilling companies have booked motel rooms for periods of 60 days to six months for employees. This has resulted in those rooms being exempt from the county hotel room tax.

Under current state law, counties can levy a 3 percent tax on room rentals of 30 days or less. Yaw proposes to restore the room tax revenue flow by including long-term rentals by companies under the tax.

Other pending bills would:

- Give landowners more flexibility to develop unused acreage leased as part of a gas company's production unit, which typically covers from 600 to 1,000 acres. A landowner may only be getting royalties for a portion of that land where drilling is taking place, yet not be able to use the rest of it. The bill would allow for lease renegotiation in such cases.
- Require a detailed listing of deductions on royalty payments.
- Require state certification of all metering devices on Marcellus Shale wells such as is done for gasoline pumps.
- Enable current property owners to gain title to underground gas and mineral rights that may have been held by a previous property owner, but haven't been tapped for 21 years. Non-use of gas or mineral rights for 21 years would be considered an abandonment of those rights under a pending bill. Area title searchers are discovering situations where unused gas rights date back 100 years.
- Restore the authority of counties to assess producing wells for property taxes.

Contact the writer: rswift@timeshamrock.com

**Smart Divorce ONLINE** Ads by Yahoo!  
 Over 50,000 customers nationwide. The Smart Choice in Filing Divorce.  
 smartdivorce.com  
**divorce records**  
 Nationwide background checks. Get marriage and divorce records.  
 www.usadivorcerecords.com  
**Why Be Alone?**  
 Secure Men and Women are Waiting Just for You  
 www.minglnet.com

We welcome user discussion on our site, under the following guidelines:

To comment you must first create a profile and sign-in with a verified DISQUS account or social network ID. [Sign up here.](#)

Comments in violation of the rules will be denied, and repeat violators will be banned. **Please help police the community by flagging offensive comments for our moderators to review.** By posting a comment, you agree to our full terms and conditions. [Click here to read terms and conditions.](#)



### King Features

Get your daily dose of **Comics**, **Horoscopes** and **Puzzles** from thedailyreview.com



### NIE MAJOR SPONSOR

Thanks to Chesapeake Energy for helping to develop our future readers, writers and thinkers by providing newspapers for area classrooms through The Review's Newspaper in Education Program.



### Thank You

to our Associate Sponsors for supporting the NIE program.



### Showcase of Fine Homes

Search and find your new home in The Daily Review's weekly advertising supplement, Showcase of Fine Homes.

### MOST READ

- [Police Briefs 1/31/2011](#)
- [Man finds brother's WWII bracelet on website](#)
- [Power outage hits Monroeton](#)
- [Marriage Licenses 1/30/2011](#)
- [Bradford County Court News 1/30/2011](#)

### JOBS570

- Mechanic (Towanda, PA)
- Rental Coordinator (Towanda, PA)
- Security (Wyalusing, PA)
- Diesel Mechanic (Wysox, PA)

[More top jobs](#)

- [JONATHAN M WILCOX ANNOUNCES HIS CANDIDACY FOR RE-ELECTION AS MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 42-3-01](#)  
6 comments · 12 hours ago
- [Canton woman charged in raffle fraud](#)  
29 comments · 8 hours ago
- [Treatment plant for frack water proposed for Monroe Borough](#)  
9 comments · 23 hours ago
- [Crash draws bus owners concerns](#)  
11 comments · 2 days ago
- [NEPA officials discuss drilling impact](#)  
15 comments · 1 day ago


**Add New Comment**

Required: Please login below to comment.

**Showing 2 comments**

Sort by Popular now  [Subscribe by email](#)  [Subscribe by RSS](#)

Real-time updating is **enabled**. [\(Pause\)](#)

 **Don Williams** 3 days ago

Funny...I don't see anything being proposed by Mr. Yaw to protect drinking water supplies or penalize drilling companies that break existing laws that protect the environment. Why is that?

 TARGETOFFORCEDPOOLING and 5 more liked this

 **farm\_family** 2 days ago

House Bill 233 was introduced on 1/26/2011 by Rep Phyllis Mundy, Luzerne County. This bill calls for a moratorium on issuing new drilling permits in the Marcellus Shale. According to the bill, the purpose is to provide additional time to enact and approve appropriate laws and regulations to protect the public. Amen and God Bless Rep. Mundy for caring about the people she was elected to serve.

comments powered by [DISQUS](#)

**REALESTATE570**

- 2 bedrooms Summerfield
- 4 monroeton
- 1 bedroom Leraysville
- 3 bedrooms South Port

[More top homes](#)

**MOST EMAILED**

**CARS570**

Polaris 2005 Fusion

[More top autos](#)



**Coupons**

Now on thedailyreview.com, print coupons and SAVE!



**m.thedailyreview.com**

Now you can access thedailyreview.com on your favorite mobile device.