

Stop the discord; offer alternatives

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Instead of running wild with overwhelming cynicism and categorical opposition to shale gas development, upstate universities, politicians and other stakeholders should take a cue from Pennsylvania by considering collaborating with industry and others to further understanding, technology and economic benefits.

In Penn State's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences latest newsletter, geology professor Terry Engelder, often credited as one of first to recognize the Marcellus Shale gas potential, speaks of the many benefits reaped by the university's ongoing research collaboration with industry and other diverse groups.

While speaking about the new "Natural Gas Applied Technology and Safety Training Center," Pennsylvania College of Technology President Davie Jane Gilmour said the college is at the forefront of providing state-of-the-art educational programs to prepare individuals to compete for jobs in Pennsylvania's growing gas industry.

We can learn a lot from this proactive attitude that seeks collaboration rather than obstruction and criticism. Let's tear down this wall separating New Yorkers from the rest of the country that is taking part in the coming age of natural gas.

To be sure, there are birth pangs, but as it has been said, "It is not the critic who counts; ... the credit belongs to those actually in the arena." Those opposing natural gas development without practical alternatives are clanging cymbals, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing but unhelpful discord.

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