

ROBERT F. "ROB" MATZIE  
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN  
HOUSE CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
16TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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House of Representatives  
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July 16, 2021

Honorable Patrick McDonnell  
Secretary PA Department of Environment Protection  
16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Rachal Carson State Office Building  
400 Market Street, PO Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Dear Secretary McDonnell:

It has recently come to my attention that Penn Energy has filed a permit to withdraw 3 million gallons of water per day from the Big Sewickley Creek in Economy Borough, which is in my legislative district. I am writing to ask that this request be denied.

As you would expect, this permit request has caused great concern from communities within the watershed. Big Sewickley Creek has provided for quality fishing for decades and is regularly stocked with trout by the Fish and Boat Commission. Allegheny Land Trust recently acquired hundreds of acres in this area for land preservation, and the creek is a tributary for the Ohio River. Alarming, in summer months portions of this waterway tend to dry up, so the prospect of so much water being withdrawn could escalate any drought causing devastating harm to the surrounding habitat.

Personally, growing up around Big Sewickley Creek, I fished, swam, and would skip rocks for hours - activities still enjoyed by residents to this day. The potential of a dried up denying further generations those opportunities would be, in my judgment, disgraceful.

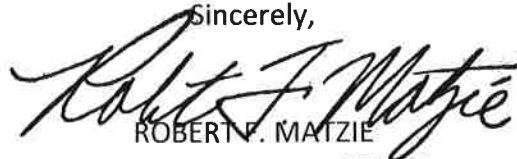
Let me be clear. I am on record as supporting natural gas extraction. I do not support a ban. But I have also fought for and voted against measures that weaken regulations and remove local input and control on these permit requests.

In most cases, I believe we can have energy extraction and maintain a clean, healthy environment. I do not believe this is one of those cases. Many companies have worked hard toward that goal, going above and beyond what is required by state and federal

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government. Penn Energy should do the same and use an alternative water source. I again ask for denial of this request.

Sincerely,



ROBERT F. MATZIE  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CC: Mr. Gregg Kauffman, DEP Office of Legislative Affairs  
Mr. Brian Schimmel, DEP Local Government Liaison