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## House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

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February 17, 2022

Honorable Governor Tom Wolf  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

Never before has the interplay of energy policies, geopolitics and the security of our nation's allies been more evident than it is right now in Europe. Poor policy choices that hindered development of reliable energy sources combined with a historic dependence on brutal dictatorships for energy have manifested in the impending threat of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This perfect storm in Europe has led to tremendous price volatility, economic disruption, and serious concerns that millions of people will not have access to the life-sustaining energy resources they need.

Unfortunately, some of these experiences are all too familiar to us. We have seen the ramifications that poor policy choices have on consumers right here in the United States. The opposition of your gubernatorial colleagues in New York and New Jersey, for example, has stymied construction of pipelines necessary to transport affordable, abundant and clean-burning natural gas to schools, hospitals, homeowners and businesses. And the consequences are real as earlier this month, consumers in New England were paying nearly six times the amount as Pennsylvania consumers for natural gas – and too often, because of these unnecessary restrictions, they have been dependent on getting this natural gas from Russia and the Caribbean, rather than right here at home.

At the national level, President Biden threw thousands of men and women working in our skilled trades out of work when he rejected the Keystone XL pipeline – only to soon thereafter give his support for the construction of Russia's Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline into Germany by waiving key economic sanctions.

As the second largest natural gas producer in the nation, Pennsylvania is in a unique position to aid our European allies. We have abundant resources to both meet and expand our domestic utilization, while also fueling our allies that for too long have been subject to the political, military and economic whims of Russia. We can, however, have a positive and profound impact the world stage if we exercised leadership and willpower to get it done. By being proactive, we could both strengthen our international allegiances as well as our own national security.

While there may be other ideas, I urge you to work with me to address the following key priorities, all of which are within our control:

- 1) Collaborate with industry and our skilled trades unions to identify specific projects that will enhance export opportunities from the Commonwealth;

- 2) Streamline and expedite the permitting process for production and critical infrastructure – including pipelines, storage, processing and refining facilities – that both enhance our domestic energy development and consumption, as well as provide for the expansion of our port facilities and manufacturing capabilities in Pennsylvania;
- 3) Work closely with our DCED Office of International Business Development staff and their contacts with our European allies to match supply opportunities here in Pennsylvania with demand in Europe;
- 4) Convene our federal elected officials to strategize on how best our international diplomats may be able to utilize Pennsylvania's energy prominence to meet the energy needs of our allies and diffuse growing tensions.

It is past time the Commonwealth stop apologizing for its abundant energy resources and rather, start marshalling them as strategic assets that will strengthen our national security and standing on the international stage.

We are asking you to sit down with members of the General Assembly majority to discuss how to put into action the steps outlined above as well as additional steps to maximize Pennsylvania's potential to be a natural gas leader.

Sincerely,



Majority Caucus Secretary  
State Representative Martina White  
170<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Speaker of the House  
State Representative Bryan Cutler  
100<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Majority Leader  
State Representative Kerry Benninghoff  
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