

July 14, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wolf  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**Re: Gas Drilling in the Loyalsock State Forest**

Dear Governor Wolf:

This past Memorial Day weekend we were reminded that at that time last year, then Governor Tom Corbett announced the signing of Executive Order 2014-03, which exposed State Parks and Forests to the threat of additional leases for natural gas development. This summer, we, the undersigned conservation, fishing, recreation and outdoors organizations, would like to reiterate our gratitude for your signing of Executive Order 2015-03 to address that threat to our shared public lands and once again prohibit new leases for oil and gas development in our State Parks and Forests. Families across Pennsylvania treasure spending their long summer weekends in the state's many beloved parks and forests; this year, thanks to your action so soon after taking office, they can do so knowing that no more of these lands will be sacrificed for oil and gas leases.

In addition to your commitment to reinstate this moratorium on leasing of state park and forest land, we would also like to thank you for the statements you made, both during your candidacy and earlier this year, indicating that you are open to exploring the legal options available to you and the Commonwealth to prevent drilling on the Clarence Moore Lands in the Loyalsock State Forest which is not protected by the moratorium. This area is the last unfragmented forest in Lycoming County and deserves the strongest protections to ensure that the young people of today, and generations to come, can experience the awe of visiting an intact forest; any damages to this area will forever alter the character of this land.

Decisions by both Commonwealth Court and the Board of Claims give the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources unusually strong ability to protect the surface in these lands, and we look forward to your administration doing everything in its power to utilize the authority you are granted.

We know that you share with us an appreciation that the Loyalsock State Forest is one of the most beloved parts of Pennsylvania's great natural heritage. The Save the Loyalsock Coalition was organized in 2012 to address this issue and has represented more than 100,000 citizens since that time. This forest, a gem of the Pennsylvania Wilds, is enjoyed annually by thousands of visitors and is home to irreplaceable natural and recreational resources, including the Exceptional Value watersheds of Rock Run and Pleasant Stream, the Old Loggers Path, and a National Audubon Society-designated Important Bird Area.

The Loyalsock State Forest belongs to the people of Pennsylvania, and as the steward of this magnificent resource for the people, the DCNR has a legal duty to protect, conserve and enhance the Clarence Moore lands in the public interest. It is critical that information about drilling

activity related to these lands be made accessible to the public: having the facts and the “right to know” are cornerstones of our democracy.

We look forward to working with you to protect the Clarence Moore lands and the Loyalsock State Forest for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Larry Schweiger  
President and CEO,  
PennFuture

David Masur  
Executive Director,  
PennEnvironment

Joanne Kilgour  
Director,  
Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter

John Trallo  
Vice Chair,  
Shale Justice Coalition

Philip S. Wallis  
Executive Director and Vice President,  
Audubon Pennsylvania

Russ Cowles  
President,  
Lycoming Creek Watershed Association

Catherine Reuscher  
Mid-Atlantic Policy Associate,  
Appalachian Mountain Club

Paul Boger  
Creative Director,  
Mind Your Design

Jim Slotterback  
President,  
Responsible Drilling Alliance

Nathan Sooy  
Central Pennsylvania Campaign  
Coordinator,  
Clean Water Action/PA

Richard A. Martin  
Coordinator,  
Pa. Forest Coalition

Joseph Neville  
Executive Director,  
Keystone Trails Association

Carol Kafer  
President,  
Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association

Susan Carty  
President,  
League of Women Voters Pennsylvania

Lana Gulden  
Treasurer,  
Rivertown Coalition for Clean Air and Clean Water

cc: Cindy Adams Dunn, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

John Quigley, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

The Honorable Garth Everett

The Honorable John Maher

The Honorable Greg Vitali

The Honorable Jeff Wheeland

The Honorable Gene Yaw

The Honorable John Yudichak