



# Maintaining the Shale Gas Impact Fee

The 13 broad categories of uses under Act 13 allow counties great flexibility to prioritize funds in a way that brings value to their communities in the short term, and to be responsible to county property taxpayers by thoughtfully and deliberately planning for the future.

## COUNTIES SUPPORT:

- ▶ Maintaining the shale gas impact fee regardless of any potential discussion to place a severance tax on the natural gas industry for other purposes.
- ▶ Assuring that all impact fee distributions remain as currently structured to benefit impacted local governments as well as counties throughout the commonwealth.

Since 2012, the impact fees generated by Act 13 of 2012 have allowed Pennsylvania counties with shale gas wells to address economic, infrastructure and social costs associated with drilling. Act 13 provides significant flexibility so that counties can determine how best to invest these revenues to mitigate their individual community impacts, assuring that county property taxpayers do not have to shoulder those costs.

Counties are thoughtfully responding to short-term needs, investing in rail projects and improvements at airports, emergency services and scholarships for training related to the industry, among many other projects. At the same time, counties also recognize the need to plan for the future, saving funds for larger projects or with an eye toward economic diversity that mitigates the boom and bust cycle of natural resource industries.

The impact fees also provide a benefit to all 67 counties, in the form of funding for at-risk bridges and open space and environmental purposes through the Marcellus Legacy Fund. Act 13 also provides direct distributions to all county conservation districts.

As the natural gas industry continues to evolve in Pennsylvania, local governments will remain a key player in natural resource management, public safety and community and economic development. In the specific context of any discussions to place a severance tax on natural gas for commonwealth purposes, counties support the preservation of the current impact fee rate and distribution structure so that all local governments may continue to responsibly address critical needs.



THE VOICE OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

For more information on **maintaining the shale gas impact fee**, contact **Lisa Schaefer** at (717) 736-4748 or [lschaefer@pacounties.org](mailto:lschaefer@pacounties.org).