



The County Commissioners Association Of Pennsylvania
The Voice Of Pennsylvania's Counties

2009 County Government Priorities

Clean And Green

Counties are a primary partner with the state in protecting farmland and open space, not only in conservation easement purchase, but also in preferential tax programs such as Clean and Green which support the viability of the agricultural industry by reducing the tax burden for certain properties.

The Clean and Green law allows agricultural and forest lands, or lands that could be used for agriculture or forestry, to be assessed for property taxes at use value rather than market value. Counties administer the Clean and Green program as part of their property assessment responsibilities, including determination of eligibility, and assignment of use values.

Exploration of Marcellus shale is booming in many parts of Pennsylvania, and current law does not address how the Clean and Green law applies to prop-

erties enrolled in the program where gas extraction is taking place. Quick statutory clarification is needed for this and other unusual uses of Clean and Green land such as wind and solar development leases.

Counties seek uniformity and believe that any change to the statute dealing with unique land uses must delineate the point at which a change of use has occurred, and whether all or part of a tract has become ineligible for preferential assessment. This may include violation of only part of a tract, as is the case with current statutory language regarding cellular communications towers.

For more information on Clean and Green issues, contact Kristen Goshorn at (717) 232-7554 x 3113 or kgoshorn@pacounties.org.



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