

The Honorable Fred Keller (PA-12)
Testimony before the House Committee on Energy & Commerce
Member Day Hearing on Priorities in the 116th Congress

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to speak about the importance of Pennsylvania's natural gas industry.

Pennsylvania's natural gas industry has far-reaching economic and geo-political benefits, both to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States as a whole.

The record is clear: Domestic natural gas production strengthens our communities and makes our country safer.

In Pennsylvania, the natural gas industry supports more than 300,000 jobs, contributes \$45 billion to the commonwealth's economy, and saves the average household \$1,100 every year in energy costs.

This means more financial security for families, making day-day life more affordable.

The success of the natural gas industry in Pennsylvania and across the United States has completely shifted long-term thinking about American energy policy and our role in the global energy marketplace.

Not long ago, the United States was energy dependent, relying on foreign adversaries to meet our energy needs.

That's no longer the case, thanks in large part to our nation's robust supply of natural gas.

Paired with a strong economy, American energy production has significant implications for our national security and our relationships abroad.

For the first time in six decades, the United States is a net natural gas exporter.

We can now use our energy exports as leverage in our foreign policy, giving our allies flexibility, while diminishing the influence of unfriendly nations.

Natural gas production is also environmentally sound.

Natural gas is the cleanest and lowest carbon emitting fossil fuel and has helped the United States to reduce carbon emissions by more than any other country.

Pennsylvania has reduced carbon emissions by 30 percent in the last 10 years, mostly because of increase use of natural gas fired electric generation.

We have a great opportunity to create more good-paying jobs, lower energy costs, and expand America's role as a global economic leader.

To continue with this success, we must do more at the federal level.

I am committed to supporting policies that allow the natural gas industry to grow and expand into new markets.

Unfortunately, some rogue states are abusing state environmental permitting processes to stop critical pipeline infrastructure.

Just last year, New England imported natural gas from Russia because infrastructure cannot pass through New York.

It is absurd that individual states can threaten our national security and interfere with interstate commerce.

I look forward to working to stop these abuses, allow companies to transport gas to market, and strengthen our national security.

Again, thank you to Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, and the Members of this Committee for allowing me to speak about the importance of natural gas for our nation's economy and national security.