



## **Pennsylvanians overwhelmingly favor taxing drillers**

Since Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling became more prevalent and noticed by Pennsylvanians, state residents have consistently supported holding gas drillers responsible for their activities through a natural gas severance tax and other safety measures.

A poll conducted in late August by the Center of Opinion Research at Franklin & Marshall College shows the public's continuing support for holding drillers responsible through a tax. The poll found that:

- ✓ 65 percent of Pennsylvanians support taxing companies that extract and sell natural gas.
- ✓ Among those who favor a natural gas severance tax, most, or 72 percent, believe the tax proceeds should be shared by the state and local communities where drilling takes place.
- ✓ Few residents, or 12 percent, believe that tax money should go only to the areas where drilling takes place.

The House Democrats' ProtectPA plan ([H.B. 1800](#)) would require gas producers to pay 30 cents per 1,000 cubic feet of gas severed at the wellhead, with an adjustment mechanism if gas prices rise more than 5 percent annually. It also would include tax credit for companies that create jobs for Pennsylvanians.

ProtectPA would earn Pennsylvania more than \$483 million annually after the first year. The money would go directly to local governments, infrastructure repair and environmental programs. None of it would go to unrestricted General Fund accounts.