

Date: April 10, 2023
To: All House Members
From: Representative Greg Vitali
Subject: Conventional Oil and Gas Well Bonding

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation to amend Title 58 (Oil & Gas) to restore the authority of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to adjust bonding amounts for conventional oil and gas wells. The General Assembly removed this authority last session.

There are as many as 200,000 orphaned and abandoned oil and gas wells in Pennsylvania. These wells can leak methane (a powerful greenhouse gas) and contaminate ground and surface water. One reason for the abandonment wells of has been the low bonding amounts drillers are required to post. The DEP and EQB should have the authority to adjust bond amounts to more accurately reflect the actual costs of plugging.

Please join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.