



January 4, 2012

JAN 16 2012

The Honorable Martin O'Malley  
Governor of Maryland  
The State House  
1 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor:

We, the undersigned, continue to watch with great concern the impact that our nation's energy dependency has had in shaping our domestic and foreign policy. As you are no doubt aware, our respective counties are uniquely positioned to provide to our State and Country the prospect of contributing a substantial and viable energy source to meet our domestic needs now and into the future.

We respectfully request your thoughtful consideration to encourage the Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative Advisory Commission to expedite their review, and encourage you to direct the Maryland Department of the Environment to authorize the process of allowing for the safe extraction of natural gas in our respective counties.

Your leadership on this important matter will enable Garrett and Allegany counties, along with the State of Maryland to benefit financially both short and long term, and assist our region and nation in a meaningful step toward energy self sufficiency.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Michael W. McKay, President

Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Commissioner

William R. Valentine, Commissioner

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND**

James M. Raley, Chairman

Gregan T. Crawford, Commissioner

Robert G. Gatto, Commissioner



County Commissioners of  
**ALLEGANY COUNTY**

701 Kelly Road, Suite 407  
Cumberland, Maryland 21502-3401



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