



1831 Murray Ave Ste. 216  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217  
Ph: (412) 973-5023  
zach@pennenvironment.org

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Horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracking and the related infrastructure including pipelines and petrochemical facilities have damaged Pennsylvania's environment, jeopardized public health, contributed to climate change, and more recently, supported our addiction to plastic.

What's worse, Pennsylvanians are subsidizing these industries, even as they award [golden parachutes to executives and file bankruptcies](#) that leave environmental clean-up to the taxpayers. It should go without saying, but with all of fracking's harms, the people of Pennsylvania shouldn't subsidize this terrible practice any longer.

Considering we are not only in the midst of an all-out climate emergency but also a pandemic, our state leaders should be spending our money carefully. And yet, just last year here our politicians in Harrisburg gave a \$670 million tax break to fossil fuel special interests.

It's not surprising that the state legislature has given big money to dirty fossil fuels, given our lawmakers' close financial ties to these polluters. The fracking industry has spent [tens of millions of dollars](#) in campaign contributions and direct lobbying to the state government over the past decade and several state representatives [have direct income from fracking companies](#).

With so many urgent priorities in the state facing budget shortfalls, from our schools to our roads to our environment, there must be ways to put our tax dollars to a better use than giving it to some of the richest, dirtiest corporations on the planet. We should be making bold commitments to renewable energy, not doubling down on 19th century forms of energy that are going to make it harder to leave a livable planet for our children, grandchildren and future generations.

Instead of doubling down on the same toxic industries, the legislature should pass the numerous bipartisan proposals pending in the state legislature to lower our climate emissions and clean up our air-- expanding infrastructure for electric vehicles, setting a standard for energy efficient appliances, legalizing community solar, increasing the alternative energy portfolio standard, and more. These steps are necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, but they're also widely popular across the commonwealth. [Voters of all parties expect our elected officials to work to tackle climate change](#), not give huge handouts to polluters.

For too long, we've propped up industries that harm our health and our environment. It's time we prioritize the health and wellbeing of our communities instead.

**Zachary A. Barber**  
**Clean Air Advocate**