



Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Senator Mary Jo White
Chairman

Patrick Henderson, Executive Director

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Letter to the Editor
Centre Daily Times
3400 East College Avenue
State College, PA 16801

Dear Editor:

Your recent editorial (“Senate Must Act Now on Energy”) claims that you are “not the Governor’s press agent”. If this is true, then your readers deserve a fairer representation of what the Senate has actually done on energy legislation.

In December – three full months before the House ever passed the Governor’s energy plan – the Senate approved by a 44-5 vote legislation to provide \$650 million in funding for alternative and renewable energy projects, weatherization, tax credits for new alternative energy development, increased assistance to low-income homeowners and funding to expand hybrid vehicle rebates. The Senate also included an alternative approach to pay for this bill by relying on existing tax revenue, and rejected the Governor’s call for a new \$70 million tax on consumer’s electric bills.

The Senate also passed two bills with strong, bipartisan support to help our fledgling bio-diesel industry, without including the Governor’s call for an ethanol mandate. All three bills have awaited action in the House of Representatives since December. Ironically, the Governor has also claimed the Senate failed to act on any of his four original energy bills – this despite the fact that he signed one of these bills – HB 1203 – into law last July.

Your readers can receive an accurate understanding about the Senate’s work in the Special Session on Energy online at www.pasenategop.com (choose “Environment & Energy”).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jo White".

Mary Jo White, Chairman
Senate Environmental Resources
& Energy Committee

