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Tax experts question credits for Shell plant

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PITTSBURGH — Gov. Tom Corbett and union leaders want lawmakers to approve a \$1.7 billion tax credit to lure a new petrochemical plant to western Pennsylvania, but some tax experts say experience has shown that's a terrible idea and bad for business.

Corbett has run as a pro-business conservative, but one leading advocate of free markets said the Shell plan doesn't add up.

Chris Edwards, editor of DownsizingGovernment.org, and director of tax policy studies at the Cato Institute, a Washington, D.C. think tank, said the plan is "really bad tax policy" that's unfair to other companies.

Shell Chemicals wants to build a multibillion-dollar petrochemical refinery about 30 miles northwest of Pittsburgh. The company says the tax credit would help justify the risk of the investment.

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