



Scattered Clouds 69°

<b>FRI</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>SUN</b>
81°	76°	79°
58°	54°	56°

Friday, June 24, 2011

THE TIMES LEADER SUBSCRIBE

SALE GARAGE SALES JOBS AUTOS HOMES

Search...

f t YouTube

News Obituaries Sports Features People Opinion Video About Us Classified Ads

**157th Annual Bloomsburg Fair**  
SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 1, 2011

VISIT US ONLINE!

Save This Story E-mail This Story Print This Story Large Type

SHARE SHARE on FACEBOOK

COMMENTARY

Posted: June 24 Updated: Today at 12:40 AM

### Ask Corbett to ensure everyone benefits from drilling COMMENTARY John T. Galloway

"WHEN WE develop our natural resources, we will do so for the maximum benefit of Alaskans." Gov. Sarah Palin 2008.



"Alaska will get \$11 billion in oil taxes and royalties – \$5 billion more than the entire \$6 billion fiscal 2009 budget." Alaska Legislative Finance Division 2009.

"The Marcellus shale gas reserve in Pennsylvania could potentially hold enough gas to fully supply the nation for decades. It has been called the Saudi Arabia of shale." John Hangar, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

"A severance tax on Marcellus Shale will not happen on my watch." Gov. Tom Corbett

"Tom Corbett has sold his soul to the gas drilling companies." Pocono Record.

"Drill baby drill," Sarah Palin said. She also said, "Pay for it."

While many other states are confronting big budget deficits because of the troubled economy, Alaska officials are in the enviable position of exploring new ways to spend the state's multibillion-dollar surplus. Sarah Palin saw to that. And she was right.

Over the opposition of oil companies, Republican Palin and Alaska's legislature approved a major increase in taxes on the oil industry – a step that has generated stunning new wealth for the state.

Chris Edwards from the CATO Institute said: "Alaska is like Dubai. It gets enormous royalties and taxes and fees of various types from natural resources."

Each Alaska resident gets an annual rebate from state oil revenue, and starting in 2009 Palin added \$1,200 more to the \$2,100 check each person received.

Gov. Tom Corbett disagrees with asking drilling companies to pay for the natural resource that will make them rich. In that position, he is at odds with former Gov. Tom Ridge, Newt Gingrich, Palin, George W. Bush, the Senate GOP and more than 70 percent of the people in this state. Even the gas industry itself.

"The Marcellus industry has been clear and outspoken on this for a year or so," said Ray Walker, vice president of Range Resources in Texas and chairman of the Marcellus Shale Coalition, an industry group. "We are willing to discuss a severance tax."

Corbett seems like a decent, honorable man. A reasonable man. And I applaud him for making tough choices even though I disagree with him on policy. But what makes him so stubborn when it comes to something that everyone can agree on, and every other state in the union that has such a natural resource, does?

Alaska and Palin did it right. So did George Bush in Texas. They made sure the local impact on municipalities like police, fire and infrastructure were taken care of. They made sure it was all done in an environmentally friendly way. They funded contingency plans for environmental disasters. They made sure every resident benefited from their natural resource.

Corbett wants to give it away for free. Our state is being flooded with workers from Arkansas and Mississippi. If we taxed the industry, we could provide tax incentives to actually hire Pennsylvanians. The jobs being created from this industry are at the Bradford County Wal-Mart where these people shop.

Reasonable people from both sides of the aisle are trying to convince the governor to

**WM**  
Kia Subaru  
560 Pirce St Kingston PA, 18704  
570-714-9924

**BMW**  
588 Market St Kingston PA, 18704  
570-287-1133

**Audi Mazda Porsche Volkswagon**  
126 Narrows Road, Larksville, PA 18704  
570-288-7411

**NEPA DAILY DEAL**  
Get it now. \$30 VOUCHER FOR ONLY \$15

fresco grill  
MARTINI BAR

**NEPA BEST CONTRACTORS**  
NEPA's first choice for finding the areas BEST contractors.

Waterproofing  
Plumbing  
Alarm & Security  
Kitchen Remodeling  
Bathroom Remodeling

**Click Here to find our more!**

THE TIMES LEADER  
**RECREATION & TOURISM GUIDE**

**Recent Activity**

Countrified no more | The Times Leader, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton PA  
41 people recommend this.

Amish man accused of sexting | The Times Leader, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton PA  
67 people recommend this.

Report: Gas drilling created nowhere near 48,000 jobs in PA | The Times Leader, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton PA  
84 people recommend this.

UN backs gay rights for first time ever | The Times Leader, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton PA  
118 people recommend this.

Facebook social plugin

change his stance. And so am I. If you agree, contact your state representative, senator and our governor, to voice your opinion.

Sarah Palin had it right. So did George Bush. They maximized the benefit for the people of their state. We are asking Gov. Corbett to do the same.

But hey, the Wal-Mart in Bradford County is booming. Just watch out for the water.

*John T. Galloway is Democratic state representative for the 140th district, Bucks County, www.pahouse.com/Galloway/*

2 [@TLbreaking](#) · 601 followers

Send Like Be the first of your friends to like this.

0 Share



**Timesleader.com** on Facebook

Like 1,637

[Send Question/Comment to the Publisher](#)



### Add New Comment

[Login](#)



Type your comment here.

Real-time updating is **enabled**. ([Pause](#))

Showing 0 comments

[Sort by newest first](#)

[M](#) [Subscribe by email](#) [S](#) [RSS](#)

[News](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Features](#) | [People](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Photos](#) | [Autos](#) | [Homes](#) | [Jobs](#) | [All Classifieds](#)

[Advertise](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Subscribe](#)

The Times Leader 15 N. Main Street Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711  
(570) 829-7101 or (800) 427-8649

© Copyright 2011 The Times Leader. All Rights Reserved.

timesleader.com WEEKENDER JOURNAL THE ARBINGTON JOURNAL THE DALLAS POST The Dispatch El Mensajero  
GOlackawanna hazletontimes.com tunkhannocktimes.com FIVE MOUNTAIN TIMES

**IMPRESSIONS**media  
Tradition. Technology. Today.