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Doug McLinko, Commissioner



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Développement durable de l'industrie des  
gaz de schiste au Québec

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## Bradford County Commissioners Office

### Bradford County Marcellus Shale

Hello and thank you for letting me address this commission and tell you of the many opportunities that the Marcellus shale has brought to Bradford County.

I have lived my entire life in Bradford County, where our natural resources have served as the backbone of the economy. Both of my Great Grandfathers mined coal and my parents worked in industry and heavy construction. I have been in business my entire adult life and have served at many levels of government both elected and appointed in my hometown of Wysox. I am currently in my 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Bradford county commissioner that consists of a board of 3 that serves our entire county.

#### Talking Points

- Bradford County is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest county in size geographically out of 67 in Pennsylvania.
- Agriculture, manufacturing, healthcare, mining and now energy represent the diverse sectors of employment in our county of 65000 people.
- While the unemployment rate nationally and statewide has remained stubbornly high, 2500 jobs were created in Bradford County as a result of Marcellus Shale drilling, representing the highest rate of job growth statewide.
- Our Hotels, Motels, and Inns are filled to capacity.
- Our Restaurants are booming.
- Once empty storefronts on main streets are full and empty lots in our business districts are leased or seeing construction planned for new hotels and commercial buildings to house gas support businesses.

**Commissioner Doug McLinko**  
301 Main Street Towanda PA 18848 (570) 265-1727 Fax (570) 265-1729  
[www.bradfordcountypa.org](http://www.bradfordcountypa.org)

- Wages are excellent in the Marcellus gas industry and employment is abundant. What isn't measurable is the overtime and increased wages paid to current workers.
- The jobs created by the gas industry encompasses our entire state, where a person with or without a high school diploma can find a good paying family sustaining job.
- A high school graduate can go on to technical school and get an education that can keep them in Pa. close to home.
- Older people can find part time work to supplement their retirement income.
- We have seen companies like T.A.W. an Arkansas based company that has located in our county and employed 140 people and is now is 100% Pa. employees.
- Also we have seen PA based companies expand and grow due to the opportunities of the Shale play. An example of this is Glenn O. Hawbaker, a heavy construction, service and products company, based in central PA that has opened an office in Bradford County and is opening an asphalt plant along with an aggregate quarry and will be constructing a railroad siting. All of this growth has given our local people job opportunities.
- These are just two examples of the many subcontractors that support the gas industry that have put major capital investment into our county.
- Never before have our small businesses seen such prosperity and opportunity and growth. It is most impressive to see local people being innovative and creative by starting up small businesses such as laundries and lunch wagons.
- Literally this gas play has saved many family businesses and family farms. People are able to pay their property taxes without selling part of the family farm or putting their homestead up for sale. It has truly been amazing.
- Housing is an issue with all the new employment in our county. People now can get a decent rent for their property although we have seen some greed and that is a problem. But overall it is good for our housing market.
- Charitable giving has saved budget strapped organizations like Big Brother Big Sister that helps keep our young people out of trouble. The gas industry has donated millions of dollars through charitable giving in our County.
- Taxes collected from new construction expands the property tax base.

- Revenues collected from sales taxes, liquid fuel taxes, and income taxes are increasing.
- Billions of dollars have been put in the pockets of taxpayers thus seeing its way to budget tight local and state governments and school districts.
- Roads that were once “Pie crust” surfaces or dirt are now being rebuilt with new base, ditches, berms, crowns and drainage like we have never seen before. I believe that it is safe to say that this year alone we are seeing over ~~30~~ million <sup>100</sup> dollars being put into Bradford County roads alone, far exceeding the Pa. Dept of Transportation budget for our county, helping townships that have struggled to maintain the mostly dirt roads in the state of Pa.
- We have 5 companies drilling in our county and currently we have about 25 rigs. Trust and a working relationship are most critical for me as an elected official to both educate our public, get answers to questions and to address concerns. Talisman has served as a very good example at working with our county commissioners and has a very good name in our county. They were the first company to come to our courthouse introduce themselves and to offer to answer questions, take us on tours and start an ever-important process of educating the public, in a honest way.

I have traveled twice to Texas to learn all I could about the Barnett shale, both the production and the economic impacts that our friends in Texas have seen. I would like to invite all of you to come to Bradford County and we will give you a tour and show what is happening in our county. Words can't describe what is going on there, as it didn't until we went to Texas.

Thank you again for allowing me to speak to you today and I look forward to seeing you in Bradford County.

I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have. My contact information is Commissioner McLinko, 301 Main Street, Towanda PA 18848 Phone: 570-268-8559.