

December 28, 2020

Honorable Bryan Cutler  
139 Main Capitol  
PO Box 202028  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2028

VIA FAX & EMAIL

Dear Speaker Cutler,

A year ago, you defended then-Speaker Mike Turzai's appointment of Representative Daryl Metcalfe to the Climate Change Advisory Committee. You said that Metcalfe's role as chair of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee made him the representative "best suited to participate on the committee."

A year later, a lot has changed. In the first nine months of 2020, the U.S. was impacted by 16 billion-dollar weather and climate disasters, tying it with the annual totals in 2011 and 2017. The pandemic gave us preview of the disruption climate change will bring. The Climate Science Legal Defense Fund has said, "COVID-19 is the quiz; climate change is the final exam." And, of course, you are now Speaker of the Pennsylvania House.

As we approach the beginning of a new session, we call on you to replace Representative Daryl Metcalfe as chair of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and remove him from the Climate Change Advisory Committee. A minimum qualification of the person who wields the most power on climate policy in the legislature is that they accept climate change. Metcalfe is an unabashed climate denier.

Representative Metcalfe's views on climate change have been well documented over the past decade.

Here is his reaction in 2009 to Operation Free. "As a veteran, I believe that any veteran lending their name, to promote the leftist propaganda of global warming and climate change, in an effort to control more of the wealth created in our economy, through cap and tax type policies, all in the name of national security, is a traitor to the oath he or she took to defend the Constitution of our great nation!" Mr. Metcalfe's email reads. "Remember Benedict Arnold before giving credibility to a veteran who uses their service as a means to promote a leftist agenda. Drill Baby Drill!!!" ([Post-Gazette, October 20, 2009](#))

Ten years later, soon after Speaker Turzai made him chair of the committee, he said the following and posted it on his Facebook page, "Just to be on record, I enjoy my vegetables, and plants need CO2, so I want to make sure we have plenty of CO2 out there so we have green grass and green vegetables growing... We need CO2, we can't eliminate all CO2. We are going to have an interesting debate for those that want to reduce something that is actually needed by our environment. And claiming that they are improving the environment." ([Representative Metcalfe's Facebook page, February 2019](#))

In fact, Metcalfe has used his Facebook page and the Metcalfe Minute videos he posts there to expound on his views of climate change more than once,"In reality, the very real threat to responsible environmental stewardship and effective energy management comes from radical Progressives who are generating fake fear (a.k.a. "man-made" climate change) to take more money from the people who actually work for it!" ([Representative Metcalfe's Facebook page, September 2019](#))

Here's a post from August 2019, "Climate change? Of course it does! Although, it is not and does not threaten the existence of life as we know it! The leftist, big government, we know better than you, nanny state, tyrant types are spreading their lies to instill fear amongst the masses in hopes of mobilizing some of them in their effort to rob us of our wealth and liberty! They would tax the oxygen we breathe if they thought they could get away with it, but have settled on attempting to tax CO2. Let's stand together and fight for TRUTH to dispel the error!" ([Representative Metcalfe's Facebook page, August 2019](#))

His rhetoric and behavior were no different in the three-hour hearing he held on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 wherein he shared similarly ignorant views, shushed and threatened to remove an invited University of Pennsylvania climate scientist who countered one of the climate deniers also invited to testify, interrupted Democratic committee members when they tried to ask questions, and reached over and shut off Representative Greg Vitali's microphone when he disagreed with something he was saying.

A [petition](#) we submitted to Speaker Turzai calling for Metcalfe's removal became the subject of a Metcalfe Minute wherein Mr. Metcalfe launched into another adjective-riddled assault on those of us raising these very legitimate concerns about his fitness for the seat he occupies. ([Representative Metcalfe's Facebook Page, January 2020](#))

In February, he repeated the same inappropriate treatment of his colleagues during the hearing on House Bill 2025, interrupting a Democratic committee member who was trying to ask a question and scolding Minority Chair Vitali for noting that, "Most every speaker who testified here today had an economic interest in either the burning of fossil fuels or the building of fossil fuel plants."

In August, when *StateImpact PA* "[asked](#) if the legislature has a responsibility to address climate change," your spokesman, Mike Straub, said "The legislature has a responsibility to always be the elected voice of constituents." The article cited polling data that said 70% of Pennsylvanians wanted to see more action on climate change. If your spokesman accurately communicated your understanding of your job, you have no choice but to replace Daryl Metcalfe with a true climate leader.

Sincerely,  
Better Path Coalition  
350 Bucks County  
350 Pittsburgh  
Allegheny County Clean Air Now  
Beaver County Marcellus Awareness  
Berks Gas Truth  
Breathe Easy Susquehanna County  
Bucks County Concerned Citizens Against the Pipelines  
Bucks Environmental Action  
Camp White Pine  
Clean Water Action  
Climate Reality Project: Susquehanna Valley PA chapter  
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability  
Delaware Riverkeeper Network  
FracTracker Alliance  
FreshWater Accountability Project  
Green Party of Butler and Venango County  
Groundswell Rising  
Growing-Greener.org

Indivisible We Rise, North Central PA  
Izaak Walton League of America - Allegheny County chapter  
Janvier Ott Inc  
Lancaster Against Pipelines  
Lancaster County Green Party  
Lebanon Pipeline Awareness  
Marcellus Outreach Butler  
MarchOnHarrisburg  
Patriots From the Oil & Gas Shales  
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania  
Pittsburgh SharePoint Pro  
Project Coffeehouse  
Protect PT  
Quittapahilla Watershed Association  
Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA)  
Songbird Yoga Center  
Sunrise Lewisburg  
Sustainable Monroeville  
The Patio Series  
Tioga County Indivisible  
TLC Education  
Unitarian Universalist Justice PA (UUJusticePA)  
Upper Uwchlan Residents for Safety

cc: Representative Daryl Metcalfe