

March 11, 2020

Honorable Mike Turzai
139 Main Capitol
PO Box 202028
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2028

Dear Speaker Turzai,

Below is an updated version of the letter we sent you a month ago that is now signed by more than 40 organizations and businesses and links to our petition that has received 1,000 additional signatures.

We, the undersigned and 6,500 signers of the [accompanying petition](#), call on you to remove Representative Daryl Metcalfe from his seat as chair of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and from any seat on that committee. We have little time left to address the climate crisis. Representative Metcalfe's record of unabashed climate denial, obstructionism, and unprofessional behavior makes him a wholly inappropriate person to chair or even serve on the committee that should be leading the efforts in the House to address the most important issue of our time.

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](#))

A year ago, soon after you 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, "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 28th 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.

Last week, 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."

The petition that accompanies this letter became the subject of a recent 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](#))

It is your responsibility to make sure the representatives you assign to chair and sit on committees are up to the task. Clearly, Representative Metcalfe is not. We call on you to use your authority as the leader of the House GOP to remove Representative Metcalfe from the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee in consequence of his false and dangerous beliefs and inappropriate actions, and replace him with someone who acknowledges the crisis we face and is prepared to act accordingly.

Sincerely,
Better Path Coalition
350.org BucksCounty
Allegheny County Clean Air Now
Berks Gas Truth
Breathe Easy Susquehanna County
Bucks County Concerned Citizens Against the Pipelines
Bucks Environmental Action
Camp White Pine
Citizens Alliance Upholding a Safe Environment
Complete Equine Health Service
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
East Goshen Safety and Environmental Advocates
Edgmont Community Safety Coalition
Gardening for Change
Goshen United
Green Party of Allegheny County
Green Party of Butler and Venango Counties
Grid Magazine
Indivisible Poconos
Indivisible We Rise West Central PA
Izaak Walton League of America, Allegheny County
Janvier Ott Inc
Juniata Watershed People Before Pipelines
Lancaster Against Pipelines.
Lancaster County Green Party
Lebanon Pipeline Awareness
Marcellus Outreach Butler
Moratorium on Marcellus

Neighbors Against the Gas Plant
Night Kitchen Bakery
One Pennsylvania
Patriots From The Oil & Gas Shales
Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Water and Air
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Project CoffeeHouse
Put People First! PA
Resolution Media Fund
Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA)
Save Our Streams PA
The Brenn Institute
The HUB for Progress
Tioga County Indivisible
Upper Uwchlan Residents for Safety
Uwchlan Safety Coalition

cc: Representative Daryl Metcalfe