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House Committee Reports Out State Forest Gas Leasing Moratorium Bill



By a vote of 16 to 9, the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week reported out [House Bill 2235](#) (Vitali-D-Delaware) which would impose a five year moratorium on leasing State Forest land for natural gas drilling.

All the Democratic members of the Committee voted for the bill and two Republicans-- Rep. Kate Harper (R-Montgomery) and Rep. Garth Everett (R-Lycoming). Rep. Everett supported moving the bill saying leasing State Forest land may crowd out private landowners who want to lease their own land for drilling. He represents an area of the state with a lot of Marcellus Shale drilling activity.