

THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS

HOWARD HEINZ ENDOWMENT · VIRA I. HEINZ ENDOWMENT

27 September 2018

Senator Gene Yaw
Chairman
Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy
Senate of Pennsylvania
The Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Chairman Yaw:

I am writing on behalf of The Heinz Endowments regarding your hearing held on September 25, 2018 on the topic of foreign impact on Pennsylvania energy. During this hearing numerous misstatements of fact and outright fabrications were presented to the Committee as though real. I write to correct the record and respectfully request that this letter be included in the records of the hearing.

At your hearing it was alleged that Mr. Christopher Heinz, a member of the Endowments' board of directors, invested in a company called Burisma. I have inquired into the matter and can state categorically this is false. Mr. Heinz never invested in any such company.

Similarly, the suggestion that the Endowments' support for environmental causes is motivated by a desire to benefit foreign private interests and investments is demonstrably untrue. The Heinz Endowments makes grants in three areas—Creativity, Learning and Sustainability—with the explicit and longstanding goal of protecting and advancing the quality of life for everyone in our region.

As part of that mission, the foundation's commitment to a healthy environment dates back decades, long before the current debates over natural gas drilling. Our work has promoted conservation, sponsored research, and generally advanced Pittsburgh's ongoing effort to clean up its environment and recover from its industrial past. Our grants have fully complied with relevant state and federal regulations, and have resulted in improvements in air quality, water quality, building practices, riverfront development, and access to natural amenities such as parks and greenways. We are proud of the work done by the organizations we support and are certain they contribute to a better life for all Pennsylvanians.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and your assistance in ensuring it is included in the record of Tuesday's hearing.

Sincerely,


Grant Oliphant
President

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