

**Representative Martina White**

**Testimony: Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee**

**Hearing to Examine the Role of LNG in Strengthening American Energy Security on the World Stage**

Natural gas is a lifesaver.

It is now so widely available as Liquefied Natural Gas that it can help countries around the world deal with short-term supply disruptions. After the Fukushima disaster, Japan shut down its nuclear reactors and relied on LNG to make up much of its lost electricity supply.

Natural gas is also abundant. If consumption remained at present levels, the International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates there are enough recoverable resources to last around 230 years.

Natural gas is also versatile. A gas-fired power station takes much less time to start and stop than a coal-fired plant. This makes natural gas a partner to renewable sources of energy such as solar and wind, which are only available at limited times.

In some cases, it is cheaper to produce gas than coal. The most efficient gas-fired plant has investment costs of \$1,100 per kilowatt, according to the IEA, compared with \$3,700 for the most efficient coal-fired plant.

This is especially critical now as we face another energy crisis. Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine made it clear the world needs to become less reliant on Russia for its energy needs. Europe in particular imports a great deal of the oil and gas that it needs from Russia, which has made it more difficult for those countries to impose sanctions on Russia to attempt to punish and dissuade Putin from further hostility.

Pennsylvania, however, has the resources to help rectify this situation.

In particular, as a state with both an abundant supply of natural gas and a port in Philadelphia, we are perfectly positioned to become a leader in exporting liquefied natural gas to supply the energy needs of our allies around the world. Natural gas is the cleanest-burning hydrocarbon, producing around half the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and just one tenth of the air pollutants of coal when burnt to generate electricity. This has the potential to reduce near-term CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and air pollution by using gas instead of coal.

To that end, my legislation will create a taskforce to study how to make this happen and what obstacles are currently preventing Philadelphia from becoming a leader in exporting liquefied natural gas.

The taskforce will be charged with creating a report and recommendations to be presented to the General Assembly and the Administration including any actions that should be taken to facilitate this. The taskforce will be made up of people representing the General Assembly, natural gas industry, Philadelphia building trades, and PhilaPort.

Pennsylvania has the resources to free the world from the energy of tyrants.

Philadelphia has the port to deliver those resources to the world.

My legislation is an important step in making this a reality.