



PHILADELPHIA
FEDERATION of TEACHERS

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATE

FROM: JERRY T. JORDAN, PRESIDENT, PHILADELPHIA FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

RE: OPPOSITION TO HB 453

SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

House Bill 453, passed last week by the PA House, paves the way for a disastrous spending plan for Pennsylvania.

This house of cards spending plan not only siphons tens of millions of dollars from services—including transportation, addiction services, recreation parks and conservation, and small business funds— but also it fails to hold corporations accountable. It is absolutely galling that the Marcellus Shale industry continues to reap enormous profits from Pennsylvania's natural resources without paying taxes.

I urge you to reject HB 453. Further, it is long past time for the legislature to enact a true severance tax. Rather than an impact fee alone, the IFO projects in 2018-19, a modest 6.5% severance tax would generate \$712 Million in revenue. This would balloon to an estimated \$1.1 Billion in 2022.*

Additional Notes:

No school code vehicle, or standalone legislation, should allow for public school employees to be terminated for economic reasons, remove due process from layoff provisions in collective bargaining agreements, or prohibit local School Districts from negotiating over local needs.

Further, we are opposed to any expansion of EITC and OSTC funding, Education Savings Accounts, or any other “voucher” legislation, either within a school code bill or as standalone legislation.

More information regarding our positions on various legislative issues can be located on www.pft.org in the “Legislative Action Center.”

The Senate should work on holistic investment in our schools and communities, and should prioritize the timely passage of a tax on the Marcellus Shale.

Contact: **Hillary Linardopoulos | PFT Legislative Representative | hillaryL@pft.org | 215-587-6752**

*Full IFO analysis:

http://www.ifo.state.pa.us/download.cfm?file=/Resources/Documents/Revenue_Proposal_Analysis_April2017.pdf