

**COMMITTEES**

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**JUDICIARY**

**STATE SENATOR  
JOE PITTMAN**  
41ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT



**Senate of Pennsylvania**

July 14, 2020

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The Honorable Tom Wolf  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

Five months ago, I sent you the enclosed letter. To date, I have no record of a response. While I recognize the pandemic has created many distractions, the concerns of our mutual constituents who rely on energy production from natural resources for their family-sustaining jobs demands your attention.

While your administration claims to be concerned about “affected communities,” which will be adversely impacted by your efforts to impose a carbon tax on energy producers, I am unaware of any engagement that has occurred with Armstrong and Indiana Counties on what will be done to replace the jobs lost, rehabilitate the sites of shuttered power plants, and replace the lost revenue to local governments – especially school districts.

The time for engagement is long overdue. With the strong bi-partisan support HB 2025 just received in the House of Representatives, I hope you reconsider your approach to implementing your carbon tax and demonstrate a true effort by engaging the General Assembly in determining the most appropriate path forward.

I am well aware market conditions have caused a number of coal fired power plants to retire nationwide – ironically a result of another cheap and abundant carbon emitting natural resource – natural gas. I am equally aware that your proposed carbon tax will accelerate the closure of additional coal fired and older natural gas electric generators. In fact, the very discussion of this tax scheme is causing disinvestment in these facilities and may achieve the end goal of some by forcing facilities to close before even one penny of your tax is collected.

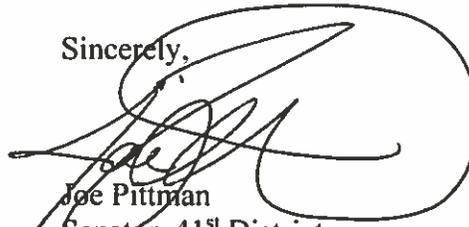
The Honorable Tom Wolf  
Page 2

My objective five months ago was to engage your administration in establishing a plan to take advantage of emerging technologies, modernize existing power plants, and build new power generators that continue to use our abundant natural resources in a more efficient and environmentally friendly manner. Despite your non-response, my objective remains the same. I respectfully ask for your attention to the pending economic crisis, which will prematurely befall western Pennsylvania due to your proposed carbon tax scheme.

Our mutual constituents and I continue to patiently await your response.

*We still really  
need your help &  
support!*

Sincerely,



Joe Pittman  
Senator, 41<sup>st</sup> District

cc: The Honorable Joe Scarnati  
The Honorable Jake Corman  
The Honorable Gene Yaw  
Armstrong County Commissioners  
Indiana County Commissioners

Enclosure

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**COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY**

**GAME & FISHERIES**

**JUDICIARY**

**STATE SENATOR  
JOE PITTMAN  
41ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT**



**Senate of Pennsylvania**

February 12, 2020

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The Honorable Tom Wolf  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor:

I hope you will take interest in the recent and exciting announcement from the US Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) regarding Carbon Capture Technology (CCT). NETL announced \$64 million in federal funding for cost-shared research and development projects under the funding opportunity; Critical Components for Coal First Power Plants. I have attached a copy of the press release for your perusal.

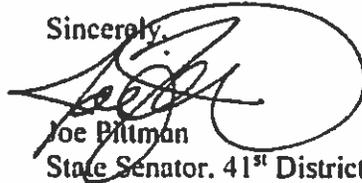
As you know, our Commonwealth remains a rich source of coal resources and coal-fired electric generation. The continued, responsible use of this God-given natural resource remains extremely critical to providing family sustaining jobs to the constituents I represent.

Our Commonwealth should explore all avenues relating to CCT so we can use our resources efficiently while evolving into new technologies that ensure we limit carbon emissions when possible. Together, we can champion opportunities available to invest in innovation that will lead to the construction of the next generation of coal-generated power plants around the communities in which current facilities are located. We can meet your oft stated desire of reducing carbon emissions from electric generation while preserving economic opportunities in rural Pennsylvania.

It is my sincere hope your administration will take seriously the potential of CCT and recognize its capacity to ensure Pennsylvania remains a net exporter of electricity. I am available to discuss this further with you at any time and again encourage you to visit my district to discuss these great opportunities. Thank you for your consideration.

*We really  
need your help &  
support!*

Sincerely,

  
Joe Pittman  
State Senator, 41<sup>st</sup> District

JP/gj

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Will Danowski, Secretary of Legislative Affairs