

**Issue:** Meeting with MoC

**Legislator:** Thomas Mehaffie

**Date:** February 2, 2017

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MoC: Thomas Mehaffie, PA House, District 106

Attendees: Anita Mentzer, Deb Reilly and Anne Searer

**Time:** Although we were only scheduled for a 30 minute appointment, Rep. Mehaffie graciously allowed us nearly an hour. He mentioned several times how he needed to get going but promptly continued the conversation.

**Introductions:** Mr. Mehaffie reviewed his credentials (pretty much what we saw on his web site). He is very interested in the job not the title, wants to take care of people. His accounting background is very obvious, and a comfortable arena for him, definitely a numbers person. He was a township commissioner so he has good ideas about how government works and has a good relationship with adjoining communities and county officials. He was only able to retain two of John Payne's five office assistants so his staff is considerable less than what we might be used to. He is interested in seeing communities work together and across township lines. Perhaps the DEAC could share its environmentally progressive programs with counterparts in other communities. His wife is a realtor and he owns a small business (beverage company). He stated that the most important asset is his employees and he encourages them to contribute to 401Ks. Mehaffie even gave an older employee a raise so that the employee could afford to contribute to a retirement fund.

**Discussion:** He supports Act 120 which will allow PSERS to become fully funded over a 20 year period. (His step-daughter is a teacher and he is very supportive of teachers). He does not support the voucher system.

He does not support Act 76 which would do away with property tax but place a huge burden especially on the elderly or those requiring long term care with a 7% tax.

We discussed the contamination of wells and the fact that once a well is contaminated, it is impossible to reverse the situation.

He was interested in solar panels and questioned why vast areas of parking lots are not covered with panels. We shared that there is at least one Harrisburg parking lot that has already implemented that (2601 N 7th St Harrisburg, PA 17110) and in a follow-up email, the link was provided to that location as well as a link to the parking lot outside Eagle's stadium in Philly (Lincoln Financial Field -950 Pattison Ave, Philadelphia PA 19148 (Eagles Stadium - Lot K), and a link to Solar Roadways.

**Asks:**

1) Would he be willing to co-sponsor SB 234?

- Rep. Mehaffie will not consider any bill until he has an opportunity to read it and study its impact.

2) Would he consider joining the Climate Caucus?

- He remarked that all the CC members were Democrats.

3) Would he be willing to attend an April 19th Lunch and Learn (from 11am-1pm) on fracking in the PA? Lunch is provided as a convenience. The program will be presented to newly elected leaders (both Senate and House) and includes clips from Groundswell Rising and a panel of experts on the impact of fracking on health, environment and a just transition to clean climate jobs.

- Rep. Mehaffie agreed to put it on his calendar and would very much like to attend and expressed his willingness to learn.

- We assured him he would get a reminder and a more formal invitation.

**URL / Source:** Private meeting, notes approved by members in attendance