

BETTER PATH COALITION



July 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Honorable Steve McCarter
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
26B East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2154

Dear Representative McCarter:

The Better Path Coalition is calling on you to request Representative Ryan Bizarro's resignation from the PA Climate Caucus in response to an inappropriate late-night exchange on Facebook.

Our coalition is currently calling on all co-sponsors of Restore Pennsylvania to remove their support for HB1585 and SB725. Governor Wolf's latest severance tax plan would lock in the state to 20 more years of shale gas development to generate enough revenue to pay for his \$4.5 billion four-year plan. In addition, the plan includes fossil fuel subsidies including funding for the PIPE program and the further growth of the petrochemical industry. Restore Pennsylvania is out of step with the grim reality that we have less than 12 years to address climate change. Shale gas development's impact on climate change has been well documented.

Early this morning, Jenna Colby, a former constituent of Representative Bizarro's, searched his Facebook page to see what, if anything, he was saying about his co-sponsorship of Restore Pennsylvania. When she found nothing, she commented on one of his posts her wish that he would reconsider his support of the plan. He responded that he wouldn't. She then asked if he was pro-fracking. His responded as follows:

I'm "pro-have an actual idea of how our economy in Pennsylvania works." I wish others had that sense too before they talked about bans, rainbows and ponies.

Provided below with Ms. Colby's permission is a screenshot of the exchange.



Jenna Colby i really wish you would reconsider your support for restore pa that locks in fracking in our state for decades. ...

Like · Reply · 16h



Ryan Bizzarro ✓ Jenna, I won't. But thank you.

Like · Reply · 11h



Jenna Colby Ryan Bizzarro so... you are pro fracking?

Like · Reply · 11h



Ryan Bizzarro ✓ Jenna, I'm "pro-have an actual idea of how our economy in Pennsylvania works." I wish others had that sense too before they talked about bans, rainbows and ponies.

Like · Reply · 11h

It was an insulting response unbecoming of a state representative under any circumstances, but it is an unacceptable response from someone who serves on the Climate Caucus.

We are disappointed that 54 of the Caucus' 60 members, including you, sir, have co-sponsored a climate-killing initiative. Although we do support and will continue to fight for an outright ban on shale gas development, neither this particular campaign nor Ms. Colby's question has asked for one. This campaign is simply asking you and your colleagues to pull your support for a plan that will guarantee a future of climate chaos.

We have noted that only two members of the Caucus who also co-sponsored Restore Pennsylvania had staff members attend the Brown Bag Briefing our coalition presented on New Research on Health and Climate Impacts of Shale Gas Development at the Capitol on June 19th. To ensure that the members of the Caucus do not succumb to the same misconceptions Representative Bizzarro has, we further request that we be given the opportunity to present some of the same information to the caucus in the very near future.

Respectfully,

Karen Feridun, Co-founder, Better Path Coalition