

STACY GARRITY *for Governor*

**SPEECH TO PENNSYLVANIA INDEPENDENT OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION
TEXT AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY
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Thank you! It is a pleasure to join you today.

A little less than eight months ago, I declared my candidacy to serve as the next Governor of Pennsylvania.

This was not a decision I nor my family took lightly.

I don't come from a political family, and unlike my opponent, I have not spent my entire career running for office. But while politics is fairly new to me, public service isn't, and I appreciate the gravity and responsibility of being the chief executive of a state with more than thirteen million people.

But it was something my husband Dan said to me in passing that made my decision easy.

What you first need to know is that Dan wasn't born and raised in Pennsylvania. Don't hold it against him, but he's from New York, but he moved to Pennsylvania after we were married twenty-two years ago.

If you think about it, all he and anyone who's moved or been born here since the turn of the twenty first century has ever known is the mediocrity that has overtaken our commonwealth.

I'd express my frustration about what I see every day in Harrisburg and how we should be doing so much better. Dan's response? He simply thought this is just how it always was in Pennsylvania.

You know and I know it hasn't always been like this... and it doesn't need to be.

And Josh Shapiro knows we've fallen deeper into mediocrity under his administration too. It's why he was so... sensitive... when I called his administration mediocre.

But what else do you call a state ranked 38th in the nation economically?

What else do you call a state ranked 41st overall?

And, as state Treasurer, I would be remiss not mentioning: what do you call a state with a \$5 billion budget hole that Josh Shapiro is only digging deeper?

You've experienced Pennsylvania's backward slide first-hand as leaders in Pennsylvania's oil and natural gas industry. A decade ago, more than a quarter million Pennsylvanians were working in family sustaining jobs supported by the oil and natural gas industry.

These are good paying jobs, with an average salary of nearly eighty thousand dollars... more than sixty thousand dollars a year to start! And just as important, those jobs are predominantly in communities desperately in need of economic development and opportunity.

But today, that number has fallen to less than half that, to just one hundred and twenty-three thousand, despite the fact that we remain the Saudi Arabia of natural gas, with the potential to power the World.

So maybe I was being too kind to Josh Shapiro when I called him mediocre, because the truth is that he's failed us.

Pennsylvania needs a turnaround... Pennsylvania's oil and natural gas industry needs a turnaround... and that starts day one of a Garriy Administration.

Our Commonwealth's oil and natural gas industry is the cornerstone of our economy. I am a proud daughter of Bradford County, from the heart of the Marcellus Shale Region, so supporting Pennsylvania oil and natural gas is not a boilerplate political statement for me.

I understand how your work sustains rural communities, because that is my community.

I know the impact oil and gas jobs have on families, because those families are my neighbors.

I know the reliability of your energy supply, because you heat my home.

And I know the importance of ensuring our nation's energy security because I deployed three times to the Middle East, where energy is our enemy's weapon of choice to hold us hostage.

We're seeing this in the conflict with Iran today.

I served our nation in uniform for three decades. I was deployed as part of Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom. I know the power... and the will... of the United States military.

No military in the history of the World can match our Armed Forces today, so the only tool our enemy has at their disposal to counter our technological and operational superiority is to hold global energy markets hostage.

Pennsylvanians have an opportunity to counter those attacks from half a World away without ever firing a shot in return, but we need a governor who will unleash the energy under our feet in response.

My promise to you is that as your next Governor, you will always receive clarity, not the muddled messages this Governor has sent you for the past three years.

You will have an ear to hear your concerns, not the cold shoulder of a governor who doesn't believe you fit into his grand personal political plans.

And you will have an advocate who will defend Pennsylvania's role in America's energy future, not an opponent who believes he needs to appease his liberal environmental base.

It's no secret that I opposed Josh Shapiro's last budget. I commend Republicans in the Pennsylvania state Senate for drawing some concessions, most notably the removal of Pennsylvania from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. That would have been an incredible development for Pennsylvania oil and natural gas, if that is where it would have ended.

But that's not where it ended, and Josh Shapiro has a liberal wish list in store for Pennsylvania on his path to 2028.

New carbon taxes and energy mandates, making the cost to operate a power plant more expensive in Pennsylvania at a time when we are already lagging our neighbors in virtually every economic metric.

He calls it his "Lightning Plan," but all I see are Pennsylvania residents and businesses bolting from our state.

That changes the day I am sworn in as your Governor next January.

Day One, I will sign an executive order to lift the moratorium on drilling that is holding Pennsylvania back, I will call for a special legislative session on energy affordability to fast-track progress, and we will unleash Pennsylvania made energy.

Your industry, like so many from agriculture to construction, has faced an unwieldy permitting process. The timelines you face have put you behind the eight ball. And the inconsistent regulatory interpretations you experience have discouraged project investment.

That changes in a Garrity – Richey administration.

We will eliminate duplicative and outdated regulations that cause more headaches than progress.

We will set firm, predictable timelines for approvals and roll back costly mandates.

And we will ensure consistent regulatory interpretation and accountability across government to fast track permitting for natural gas production, pipelines, and power plants.

My administration will reform or simply pause renewable energy mandates and efficiency mandates.

We will shift to cost benefit accountability standards and expand generation capacity.

And we will ensure Pennsylvania's natural gas supports the downstream manufacturing that is the heart of so many communities all across our Commonwealth.

Pennsylvania led the industrial revolution that changed the World. From right here in Pittsburgh with Carnegie Steel to the Drake Well in Titusville, the cocktail of Pennsylvania know-how, ingenuity, and work ethic succeeded without the heavy hand of a government that believed it knew how to do your job better than you.

My plan will eliminate the regulatory and legislative uncertainty you currently face, uncertainty that has discouraged investment and expansion.

I understand that your industry needs long term certainty and predictability for you to invest in necessary infrastructure and workforce development. Josh Shapiro has failed you. A Garrity – Richey administration won't.

Done right, Pennsylvania's energy industry can generate two hundred thousand jobs and six billion dollars in revenue for state and local communities to help us overcome Josh Shapiro's legacy of deficit spending, while also finally delivering on the promise of meaningful tax relief for all Pennsylvanians. And in doing so, we will lead the nation in energy dominance, a key foundation for peace and opportunity around the World.

Our plan will also directly benefit Pennsylvania's energy consumers.

We all feel the pain of surging electric bills, and unleashing Pennsylvania's natural gas can play a massive role in lowering those costs.

Data centers in particular have become the hot button issue of the day, and for good reason. All corners of the commonwealth are attracting interest from data centers and AI infrastructure because of the convenient access to energy and water supplies. And as we have learned, these operations depend on massive amounts of reliable electricity.

There are legitimate concerns across many of our communities about what this will mean for electric bills, so this new development will demand thoughtful planning that focuses on affordable, reliable power that ensures development goals do not infringe on the needs of local communities. And a vibrant Pennsylvania natural gas industry is key to maintaining this balance.

Today, nearly sixty percent of all electricity generated in Pennsylvania uses natural gas. To put natural gas' share of electrical generation in perspective, just sixteen years ago, natural gas only accounted for fifteen percent of Pennsylvania's generated electricity.

With energy demand up and supply down, Josh Shapiro's none of the above energy policy has delivered high utility bills for Pennsylvania families and businesses.

While Josh Shapiro's failed policies have caused reliable plants to shutter and kept new plants from opening, he somehow blames utility companies when hardworking Pennsylvania families can't afford their electric bills.

To paraphrase President Harry Truman, a Democrat who actually reached the White House, the buck stops at Josh Shapiro's desk.

Make no mistake, appeasing his environmental left and appealing to Democratic presidential primary voters has become a greater priority for Josh Shapiro than helping Pennsylvania families.

My administration will put Pennsylvania ratepayers first.

During our special session on energy affordability, we will cut taxes and eliminate hidden costs on Pennsylvania families and businesses. We will roll back or eliminate the gross receipts tax on utilities. We will end the tax-on-tax stacking on energy bills. And we will require full transparency of all taxes and surcharges.

Pennsylvania is not just a participant; it is the backbone of the PJM regional grid as both the top producer of energy and the top exporter of energy. Pennsylvania's energy is critical to multistate grid reliability.

Josh Shapiro wants to blame PJM for higher electricity rates. However, PJM doesn't own power plants or transmission lines. And they sure aren't imposing new carbon taxes or regulations on their customers.

Today, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC rely on electricity generated in Pennsylvania. Yet Pennsylvania families, farmers, and businesses are forced to pay higher prices because of mandates in other states.

And by 2030, West Virginia, Ohio, and Indiana will tie us in energy generation.

Under a Garrity – Richey administration, Pennsylvania will no longer subsidize the region while overcharging its own residents. Our focus will be economic expansion, not higher energy costs. This approach will replace consumption taxes with production driven growth, lowering utility bills by fifteen to twenty five percent through the upfront elimination of fees and taxes – saving the average family between twelve hundred and fifty dollars and fifteen hundred dollars each year.

At the same time, energy infrastructure will be built to increase in-state generation capacity, ensuring reliable and affordable energy, while improving the electric grid. This will reduce exposure to volatile regional pricing and lower the overall cost of living, including housing, food, goods, and services.

In nearly every speech I give, I remind my audience that two hundred and fifty years ago this summer, on the other end of our great commonwealth, our nation's Founders stood up and did something the World had never seen. They told the largest, most mighty empire in the World "enough."

And out of that moment, our Commonwealth birthed the enduring American Dream of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, a movement that has freed more people economically and socially than any in the history of mankind.

We deserve a governor with a plan worthy of a commonwealth that gave birth to this nation and that dream.

We deserve a governor who will do more than over tax and overregulate the very resources and industries that can make us a leader again.

We deserve a governor who will put the future of his constituents ahead of his own political aspirations.

That is the goal of the plan I just laid out for you.

To support Pennsylvanian... American... and global consumers, we need to unleash the energy under our feet.

To unleash the energy under our feet, we need to empower you.

And to empower you, we need a Governor who recognizes the impact their decisions have on the future of our commonwealth... our nation... and the World.

But leadership matters. Accountability matters. And putting Pennsylvania families and businesses first matters.

This is our moment.

This is our turning point.

And together, we will restore opportunity... affordability... and the promise of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

God bless you. God bless the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. And God bless the United States of America.

Thank you.