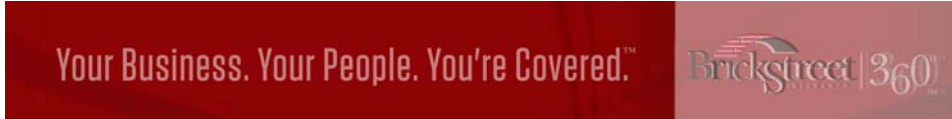


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## A Call To Action

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[Urging At The Capitol to Get Moving On Marcellus Shale Bills](#)

The Marcellus Shale drilling bills have come to near standstill at the state capitol. But two lawmakers are urging their colleagues to get them back on track.

Monongalia County Delegate Barbara Fleischauer took to the floor of the House Thursday to whip up support for increased regulations for horizontal drilling for natural gas.

"There is a need for greater regulation and I urge all of you to help us get this regulation so that we can get the many advantages that hydraulic fracking presents to our state," she said.

Fleischauer pointed to a Marcellus Shale drilling explosion on Wednesday in Washington County, Pennsylvania that injured three workers as yet another reason the state must regulate the industry.

"It is critical that we get increased funding for inspectors," she said. "We have all of 15 inspectors right now and we have 59,000 wells."

Harrison County Delegate Sam Cann is equally passionate about getting regulations passed but for a different reason. He says West Virginia should be setting the pace for other states when it comes to Marcellus Shale drilling.

"I would love to see us use that natural gas and really go after a natural gas market for vehicles."

Cann says the recent spike in oil prices is a perfect example of why the state needs to be out in front.

"Let's try using our local fleets with natural gas," he proposed. "Then we can become more dependent on ourselves with our home-produced energy...I'd like to think that we in this room are smart enough to make it happen."

The bills winding their way through the legislature have done so slowly because various opposition groups to the multi-faceted proposals.

One big roadblock is forced pooling, where companies drilling into the shale don't have to get permission from mineral rights owners to access the gas.

Fleischauer and Cann hope their speeches on the House floor Thursday will get lawmakers to think about the bigger picture and be more willing to work out their differences.



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