

« [Former FBI Director Louis Freeh To Lead Penn State Probe.](#) | [Back to Main Page](#)

November 21, 2011

## *Corbett: Norquist And I Have "A Difference Of Opinion" Over Impact Fee.*

Total People in Discussion: 0

Categories: [Current Affairs](#), [PA Governor](#), [Politics](#)

### It Ain't Exactly Martin Luther ...

... nailing his list of grievances to the cathedral door, but **Gov. Tom Corbett** put some daylight



between himself and GOP tax enforcer **Grover Norquist** this afternoon, telling a packed house at the [Pennsylvania Press Club](#) that an impact fee bill now before the state Senate doesn't break the no-tax pledge he signed last year.

Norquist, the founder of the conservative pressure group [Americans for Tax Reform](#), doesn't see it that way.

On Nov. 17, the specialty news shale news site [State Impact Pennsylvania](#) posted an open letter from Norquist to lawmakers in which he said the House's version of the fee (which is now before

the Senate) "didn't pass the laugh test" on whether it was a tax.

But, then again, neither does **Corbett's** claim this afternoon that he's supported a fee "from Day One when I was campaigning."

"Go back and read what you have written," **Corbett** challenged the scribes in the room, arguing that he's always believed that "there are impacts to the counties," from shale exploration.

ABC

BRJ

SEA

STA

Since we can never resist a dare ...

Using the Googles, we quickly found a [March 2010 interview with KDKA-TV in Pittsburgh](#), in which then-candidate **Corbett** said Norquist's no-tax pledge also barred fee increases. But by July of 2010, **Corbett** said the pledge didn't include fees.

Political junkies may recall that the apparent change of heart created a minor kerfuffle on the campaign trail, with **Corbett's** Democratic rival **Dan Onorato** charging that the then-Attorney General had flip-flopped on the fee question.

"He's been all over the state talking about this no-tax pledge," **Onorato** argued during a conference call last year, where he called the the conflicting statements "just the latest example of **Tom** flip-flopping every time the pressure builds."

**Corbett's** spokesman (then as now) **Kevin Harley** refuted **Onorato's** charges, arguing that the pledge did not mention fees, only taxes. At the time, **Harley** said he couldn't explain why **Corbett** had answered the way he had during that March 2010 interview.

But anyway ... more on today's dust-up between **Corbett** and **Norquist** after the jump.

In his open letter to legislators, **Norquist** urged lawmakers to "just look at where the money



[from an impact fee] goes and it is easy to see that it does not pass the laugh test when it comes to trying to claim this as a fee,"

Last week, the House signed off on an administration-backed bill that imposes a fee of \$40,000 per-well and splits revenue 75-25 percent between local

governments and the state. The Senate also passed its own version of a fee last week.

"Regarding the revenue [the House bill] would direct to the Commonwealth, it goes to increasing revenue for first responder training, transportation infrastructure, health care provider training, and "citizen outreach and education," **Norquist** wrote.

Asked about this afternoon about his apparent violation of the one, true faith, **Corbett** sniffed, "I disagree with his opinion on that."

**Norquist** has also "said that the fee we introduced [which gives counties the option to impose a fee or not] was not a tax," **Corbett** said. "I have indicated that I believed there are impacts [from drilling], I have said this from Day One when I was campaigning."



RSS



Google Reader



Email John L. Mice



Capitol\_Ideas  
Capito

[Capitol\\_Ideas](#) Corl Of Opinion" Over I  
44 minutes ago · reply

[Capitol\\_Ideas](#) Forr Penn State Probe.  
4 hours ago · reply · re

[todaystheDayhbg](#) 1  
<http://t.co/bp97EYl>  
7 hours ago · reply · re

[StateImpactPA](#) Dri forward in Trenton  
<http://t.co/rzG9V9f>



## RECENT CO

1. [Tiffany Sale](#) on [Holt](#)
2. [διδυμίσμοι](#) on [Finc Wherever That Is.](#)
3. [nike zoom kobe vi](#) o
4. [sac a main gucci](#) on
5. [Kripalu ji Maharaj](#) or
6. [air max 90](#) on [Actua Fall Crow Dispersal Pro](#)
7. [air max 90](#) on [Legis Commission To Probe F](#)
8. [cheap ugg boots](#) on [Shale Fee Debate Toda](#)
9. [cheap ugg boots](#) on [Today.](#)
10. [cheap ugg boots](#) o [Senate and House Seat](#)

## CATEGORY

- Books
- Current Affairs
- Election 2010
- Film
- Food and Drink
- Games
- Music
- PA Governor
- Politics
- Religion
- Science
- Sports
- Television
- Travel
- Web/Tech
- Weblogs

And that's why the impact-fee bill approved by the House leaves it up the counties to impose a fee -- or not. The Senate-passed bill imposes the fee at the state level.

But the administration believes the locals are "best suited to determine what all the impacts are out there. We reserve a portion to the state to deal with the state impacts in those communities," **Corbett** said. "But they are impacts. But I don't believe they are taxes. So I guess we have a difference of opinion."

**Corbett** also told the crowd he believes the Legislature will advance a shale fee bill that is "is acceptable to all parties," but may not contain provisions that "everyone likes."

**Corbett** said he'd prefer to see a shale bill -- along with school reform -- done before the Christmas holidays. But, if not, there's always next year.

"I will continue to work with them to get it done," he said.

Legislative and administration negotiators may need the time.

**Drew Crompton**, the chief of staff for **Senate President Joe Scarnati, R-Jefferson** (who penned the Senate bill) said it's going to take plenty of work to reconcile the 150-page impact fee bills the two chambers batted back and forth to each other last week.

"In the Senate bill, every word matters," he said. "We took two years to develop this. It's not something you can push out in three weeks." Still, he noted, "We want to get this done."

 [Linking Blogs](#) |  [Digg It](#) |

8

0

[Recommend](#)

[View Archive Page](#)

## ARCHIVES

- [November 2011](#)
- [October 2011](#)
- [September 2011](#)
- [August 2011](#)
- [July 2011](#)
- [June 2011](#)
- [May 2011](#)
- [April 2011](#)
- [March 2011](#)
- [February 2011](#)
- [View Archive Page](#)

## THEMORNII

- [Blogging the Econom](#)
- [Blogging with Bill Wh](#)
- [Capitol Ideas with Jo](#)
- [Eagles Insiders](#)
- [Grollers Corner](#)
- [The Hog Blog](#)
- [Lehigh Valley Health](#)
- [Lehigh Valley Music](#)
- [Lehigh Valley Parent](#)
- [Lehigh Valley Wild](#)
- [Nittany Lines](#)
- [Penn State Master G](#)
- [Pennsylvania Avenue](#)
- [The Phillies Files](#)
- [Varsity/The Press Bo](#)
- [Retail Watch](#)
- [The Road Warrior](#)
- [SportsTalk](#)
- [TV Watchers](#)
- [Valley 610](#)
- [Watchdog w/Paul M](#)
- [View A Random Blog](#)
- [MORE: About The Bi](#)

## TRAFFIC

### Current Comments

### Leave A Comment

NOTE: Please express your opinions in a civil and respectful manner. Insensitive, inflammatory and derogatory comments will be removed at our discretion.

[Verify your Comment](#)

[Previewing your Comment](#)

Posted by: |

### Traffic Alert

Hamilton Tw  
closed at Sa  
milepost 18  
11/21/2011

Palmer & L. I  
between Sto  
Nov. 21 (SB)  
11/21/2011

[Click here to su](#)

### Traffic Cam

### Gas Prices

## VARSITY

This is only a preview. Your comment has not yet been posted.

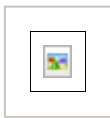


Your comment could not be posted. Error type:  
Your comment has been posted. [Post another comment](#)

The letters and numbers you entered did not match the image. Please try again.

As a final step before posting your comment, enter the letters and numbers you see in the image below. This prevents automated programs from posting comments.

Having trouble reading this image? [View an alternate.](#)



Name:

Email:

URL:

Comments:

Remember My Info

[Schedules](#)

[Scores](#)

[Search](#)

[Sportswear](#)

## MORE LINK

- [Lehigh Valley News](#)
- [Local & National Spo](#)
- [Life & Entertainment](#)
- [State & National New](#)
- [Business News](#)

©2007 The  
Morning Call  
Online