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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2012

Mr. Marvin Odum
President
Shell Oil
910 Louisiana
Houston, TX 77002

Dear Mr. Odum:

As Shell considers plans to construct an ethane-fed cracker plant in the northeast region of the U.S., I write to strongly urge you to build the plant in western Pennsylvania. The region is uniquely suited to house such a facility and has demonstrated a commitment to fostering the growth of the natural gas industry.

Western Pennsylvania would make an ideal site for Shell's future facilities. We have a history steeped in industry and manufacturing, and our workforce is second to none. A number of institutions of higher education in and surrounding the Pittsburgh area are initiating degrees and programs specifically targeted to train for the skills that are necessary to fill the jobs that extraction of the Marcellus Shale demands. Additionally, we have the natural and manmade infrastructure the facility requires with our rivers and extensive rail transport network.

As you well know, Marcellus Shale is abundant in the region, and Pennsylvania is anxious to gain from the tremendous promise it holds for job creation and the economy. There is currently no infrastructure in the northeast region that can process the natural gas co-product. Building the Shell plant in western Pennsylvania would allow the company to produce ethane from its own wells, as well as work exclusively with other producers in the region. It would also give the company the opportunity to coordinate with local communities that have already demonstrated a good working relationship with industry, as well as innovative institutions of higher education that are always looking to move the bar forward.

While I understand that there are risks associated with these facilities, I have confidence that Shell can design and construct a world class facility that is run safely and efficiently. The Marcellus Shale can make Pennsylvania a leader in energy production if it is done correctly. Shell's presence in the state would undoubtedly bring thousands of jobs, ranging from production and construction to engineers, and boost economies at all levels. I am confident that once Shell considers all that western Pennsylvania can offer, it will agree that the region is uniquely fitting for development of its new plant.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I look forward to working with you to see this project through.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Altmire". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jason Altmire

cc: Governor Tom Corbett