

opinion

A letter to the editor response to the “Oil and water do not mix” article

Disclaimer: TransCanada and Cabot Oil & Gas were contacted before the publication of “Oil and gas companies explore Northeast Ohio for fracking opportunities” published on Oct. 5 but did not respond.

KELSEY MULAC
Cordinator for External Affairs at
Cabot Oil and Gas Corporation

In response to Ashland University Live’s article “Oil and gas companies explore Northeast Ohio for fracking opportunities”

AU Live published an article detailing the exploratory operations of both Cabot and TransCanada in the north central Ohio area. In the article, the author quoted several members of the community who were vocal about their negative attitude about the oil and nat-

ural gas industry.

It is disappointing that the author only interviewed community members who have a negative perspective. If the author had taken the time to speak to landowners in Susquehanna County, where Cabot has been developing and operating for over a decade, they would realize the positive impact that natural gas development brings to communities.

Charlie Clark has owned and managed a farm in Springville, PA since 1984 and has a herd of about 40 cows. Charlie cites the arrival of the natural

gas industry as the saving grace for many families in the area, including his own.

“We wouldn’t have stayed in it this long had there not been an alternative source of income,” Charlie has said.

Jeff and Donna Williams are lifelong dairy farmers in Susquehanna County, PA. For them, Marcellus Shale natural gas development is a positive for the farm, community and the county.

“It’s been a great economic boost to us, my sons have bought some new machinery”, Donna Williams notes.

The article focuses on the environ-

mental concerns of community members. Since the very beginning of the shale revolution, the oil and natural gas industry has constantly evolved; keeping safety at the forefront of that evolution. The American Petroleum Institute (API) 2017 Energy and Communities report goes over the industry’s safety standards, emission reductions, responsible developments, commitment to transparency and community engagement citing over 130 different sources.

I encourage residents to do their research and learn about the positive

impacts of oil and natural gas development, evident in communities where we currently operate like Susquehanna County, PA. I also urge community members to research the steps the industry takes, outlined in the API report, to protect the environment and the safeguards that are put into place to do so.

To submit your own opinion article or letter to the editor, email bgannon@ashland.edu



Signs that were present at an active worksite from Shalenberger Construction.



An excavator is used to get ready for fracking.



Protestors held signs such as the one pictured to show their disapproval of the fracking.

Reporter response to a letter to the editor

AVAERIE FITZGERALD
Ashland University Reporter

In response to the submission by Ms. Mulac, Coordinator, External Affairs for Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation, pertaining to my recent article “Oil and gas companies explore Northeast Ohio for fracking opportunities”, I would like to offer the following responses to her letter:

Addressing Ms. Mulac’s disappointment that I only interviewed negative perspectives, she failed to mention

that I did reach out for a comment from Cabot Oil & Gas as well as State Representative, Darrell Kick who has openly supported fracking and neither responded to that opportunity. That attempt was made to allow them to contribute their positive viewpoint.

It was pointed out that if I had addressed residents in Susquehanna County, that I would see the “positive impact” that had come to the area when the corporation arrived. I did not seek out residents from that county, or that state because my story focused on

Ashland and the counties surrounding. The words of the locals have more value over those that have profited from the company.

She supplied two stories as examples of how these specific lives benefitted from their presence in that area. While I appreciate the effort Ms. Mulac offered to share these personal interest stories, I feel that she must take her own advice and share both sides of the story there as well. Perhaps she should take some time and research the responses of the neighbors of these land-

owners and not just those who profit from it directly.

I took Ms. Mulac’s suggestion and researched the Susquehanna County area. Two stories that came up were from the Akron Beacon Journal, discussing a \$76,000 fine from the DEP for losing control of a well for 27 hours, and an incident that happened less than a year ago where they were fined \$99,000 for air quality violations at numerous well sites throughout the county (taken from Pennsylvania Pressroom- Official News for the PA

State Agencies). Beneath those, there were articles of water contamination cases, the documentary Gasland, and FrackNation, which were both based on that region.

I stand by my article and I feel that both sides were given an opportunity to respond to my request.

To submit your own opinion article or letter to the editor, email bgannon@ashland.edu

the Collegian

EDITOR’S NOTE

The views expressed in the columns do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Collegian* or Ashland University.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Every letter must be signed and include contact information. The Collegian reserves the right to edit any letter for content, grammar or length. The Collegian prints letters for university and public interest. Please send letters to:

The Collegian
137 Center for the Arts

EDITORIAL STAFF

- BREE GANNON**
Managing Editor
- RACHEL RAMSEY**
News Editor
- ZACH READ**
Sports Editor
- KAITLYN MOORE**
Features Editor
- CHRISTINE JENKINSON**
Assistant Editor
- MAGGIE COGAR**
Faculty Adviser

The Collegian © 2012
Ashland University Collegian
All Rights Reserved.

The Collegian is a student-run paper, published weekly.

The Collegian is printed by the Wooster Republican Printing Company.

401 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805
137 Center for the Arts

(419) 289-5310
collegian@ashland.edu
www.ashlandcollegian.com
[@AUCollegian](https://twitter.com/AUCollegian)

You read.
We listen.



Let us know how we’re doing.
@AUCollegian