

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : House Bill 2235, Marcellus on State Forest Lands

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Author: : troutbert

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Things are getting serious now. This could be a biggie for us trout fishermen.

In committee, there were both Dems and Reps voting for the bill. Contact your legislators on this one. Please let us know if you do. I contacted mine (again).

House Bill 2235 could see consideration by the full House as early as next week thanks to its 26-8 approval by the Appropriations Committee. The bill requires a minimum five-year freeze on further leasing of our state forests for deep gas drilling. The drilling industry already has access to approximately 700,000 acres of state forest, about one-third of the entire state forest system and nearly half of the acreage that overlies the Marcellus Shale formation. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources estimates that 5,000 to 6,000 wells will be drilled on these acres.

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