

May 26, 2006

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed Senate Bill 881 – *Environment - Gas and Oil - Coalbed Methane Production*.

This bill establishes the minimum required distance from an unleased property boundary for a coalbed methane well; authorizes the Department of the Environment to make inspections it determines necessary to ensure compliance with specified requirements under specified circumstances; and alters the requirement that the owner of leased lands surrender the lands under specified circumstances.

House Bill 1451, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 881.

Very truly yours,

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor