



The Onorato Plan for Sustainability *Growing Pennsylvania's Economy through Leadership in Energy, Environmental & Smart Growth Policies*

The Energy Economy holds more potential for Pennsylvania than perhaps any state in the nation, and Dan Onorato has the vision and experience to create jobs and help businesses succeed in this burgeoning economic sector. As Governor, Onorato will create new jobs in energy-related occupations from manufacturing to weatherization to Marcellus shale development; improve Pennsylvania's energy security; and save families and businesses money on their energy bills. And Onorato understands that economic growth and environmental conservation can and must go hand-in-hand.

Pennsylvania's wealth of natural resources, capacity for pioneering research and innovation, and tradition of success in manufacturing and other core industries create the foundation for sustained economic growth and job creation. The history of the Commonwealth is the story of energy in America: coal mining beginning in the late 1700's; the world's first successful oil well in 1859; home of the first commercial nuclear power plant in the United States, in 1957; long-time gas exploration culminating in the recent discovery of vast untapped reserves in the Marcellus shale; and now development of renewable resources including solar, wind and geothermal power that hold enormous promise. The responsible use of all of these energy sources will pave the way for Pennsylvania's future.

Extracting natural gas from the Marcellus shale will lead to extraordinary job creation, as will the growth of the diverse industries that are necessary for the broader Energy Economy to succeed. Pennsylvania's role in the Green energy economy has risen dramatically, with manufacturers of solar panel elements, wind turbine components and energy efficient products bringing new jobs to the state. Now Pennsylvania must take the next steps in becoming the nation's home for the Energy Economy supply chain with a targeted economic development strategy for the energy sector.

Pennsylvania's economic prosperity and job growth will also stem from the state's commitment to conservation and energy efficiency: keeping families in their homes and keeping businesses afloat while deploying a skilled Green-collar workforce to upgrade and weatherize buildings. In addition, Pennsylvania's world-class research institutions will develop the new technologies and processes that make energy cleaner and more affordable – with the spin-off jobs staying right here in the Commonwealth.

Complementing this commitment to energy leadership is Pennsylvania's dedication to environmental conservation and preservation. Named for "Penn's Woods," the Commonwealth boasts a stunning natural environment that is an irreplaceable asset, a major contributor to our residents' quality of life, and a tourism draw for communities from one end of the state to the other. Preserving and enhancing the quality of our water, air and land is a necessity.

A Proven Track Record

Dan Onorato has made Western Pennsylvania a leader in sustainability and the Energy Economy – bringing the region new jobs while saving taxpayers money through better use of energy. Pennsylvanians can have confidence in Onorato's commitment to these issues because they can see the results of his leadership in Allegheny County.

As County Executive, Onorato has worked to attract manufacturing companies and other components of the Energy Economy to set up shop in Allegheny County. To match these job creation successes, Onorato and the Community College of Allegheny County established a Green Institute to train workers in Green jobs in partnership with industry and labor leaders. Onorato's strategy has meant stable well-paying jobs for Allegheny County residents, helping the region avoid the worst of the national recession.

As part of his commitment to making government more effective and efficient, Onorato launched the Allegheny Green Initiative to promote sustainability within county government, he hired the county's first Sustainability Manager, and he launched the Allegheny Green Action Team to implement Green improvements. Onorato ordered that the county government's own buildings become more energy efficient, and he issued an Executive Order to improve water use, reduce energy consumption and cut greenhouse gas emissions. Onorato's Western Pennsylvania Energy Consortium is purchasing 10% of its energy from renewable sources – an amount that will soon increase to 15% while saving taxpayers money.

In addition, Onorato has viewed environmental conservation as an essential component of his economic and community development policies. Onorato strengthened the county's Air Quality Program by improving technology and ordering an upgrade to the county's air quality standards – a move that led the Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette's* editorial board to declare: "It's a relief that Allegheny County has decided to breathe new life into its pollution-control program rather than transfer authority for enforcing clean-air regulations to the state." And Onorato expanded green space, parks and trails throughout the county – including forming the Allegheny Parks Foundation to raise private funds to improve the county's parks and setting aside \$10 million in public-sector capital funds to encourage contributions.

A Vision for Pennsylvania's Future

Pennsylvania will experience unprecedented economic growth and enhanced quality of life if we use our wealth of natural resources in a forward-looking, responsible manner. The Onorato Plan for Sustainability calls for:

1. Making Pennsylvania the national leader in creating Green-collar jobs and new Green businesses;
2. Maximizing Pennsylvania's energy production portfolio to achieve both economic and environmental benefits;

3. Keeping Pennsylvanians in their homes and jobs by lowering their energy bills;
4. Fulfilling our commitment as stewards of Pennsylvania's environment; and
5. Encouraging smart and sustainable growth.

Making Pennsylvania the national leader in creating Green-collar jobs and new Green businesses

Pennsylvania's commitment to energy and environmental leadership will create vast economic opportunities for the state's residents and entrepreneurs. Dan Onorato will ensure that Pennsylvania aggressively builds its leadership in the Green economy to get the state's residents back to work. As Governor, Onorato will:

- **Focus economic development resources on the Green economy and its component parts – including an emphasis on manufacturing jobs.** Onorato's Plan for Economic Development includes a comprehensive strategy for helping firms start, expand and prosper in targeted sectors like this one. As Pennsylvania's role in energy continues to expand, so will the opportunities for firms that develop and manufacture components in alternative energy production and energy conservation strategies – such as wind and solar components, energy efficiency materials and products, Green buildings and manufactured housing, grid management and battery technology. Just as Onorato worked to bring a plant to Allegheny County that will manufacture glass and mirrors for solar panels, he will increase Pennsylvania's focus on the supply chains for the energy economy and create economic opportunity for current and future small businesses across the state.
- **Expand venture capital investment in Green companies.** Onorato will prudently increase the state's venture capital investment in Pennsylvania companies to spur Green and other high-tech innovation. He will also support and expand the Pennsylvania Angel Network that links early-stage capital to innovative new Green companies.
- **Spearhead the state's Green workforce development strategy.** Onorato will ensure that leaders from industry, labor and the public and non-profit sectors are engaged in making sure that Pennsylvania residents are hired for jobs in the energy sector and spin-off Green-collar jobs by identifying and addressing workforce opportunities, shortages and training challenges. In coordinating training efforts, Onorato will make information about training opportunities available to the public and will work to rapidly respond to the changing jobs landscape by supporting training centers in keeping up with the evolving workforce demands and needs of industry. Onorato will insist that the state's Green-collar workforce be diverse and fully inclusive, and he will develop outreach strategies and publicly report data on workforce diversity.
- **Expand the use of community colleges and other higher education providers in preparing workers for Green-collar jobs.** Onorato's Plan for Higher Education calls for greater alignment between regional employers and community college programs and curricula. Onorato will create a continuum of technical education and training – starting in high schools and extending through the community colleges and other institutions of higher education – to ensure that the supply of trained and certificated Green-collar workers matches the demand from industry. This strategy will ensure that Pennsylvania residents have the opportunity to benefit from the Green economic boom.
- **Create a weatherization workforce – Pennsylvania's Green Jobs Corps – to lead the way in conserving energy.** As homes and businesses implement conservation measures to lower their own electric costs, there is enormous job creation potential for the

installers, energy auditors and other professionals who will “weatherize” these structures. Onorato will ensure that there are opportunities for workers to be certified in order to demonstrate their proficiency and preserve quality control on this important work, and he will create career ladders so that workers can increase their skill levels on a path to jobs that pay a family-sustaining wage. Onorato will also build consumer protections into the system so that homeowners and businesses have confidence that their weatherization provider is a skilled professional.

Maximizing Pennsylvania’s energy production portfolio to achieve both economic and environmental benefits

Pennsylvania may be unmatched in its ability to put a wide range of natural resources to work generating energy while protecting the environment. Dan Onorato will pursue policies that maximize the potential of the entire portfolio of energy production in the Commonwealth: renewable energy sources like solar, wind, geothermal and biomass; the vast natural gas reserves in the Marcellus shale; advanced coal; alternative fuels; and nuclear energy. Onorato’s plan to move Pennsylvania towards energy independence and energy security will be a win-win for the economy and the environment. As Governor, Onorato will:

- **Pursue the Marcellus shale’s economic growth and environmental stewardship.** The Marcellus shale can be a powerful economic engine for the Commonwealth – creating hundreds of thousands of jobs, providing affordable clean energy and spurring new business creation to support the industry. But it must be done right or we will lose out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Onorato knows that businesses need certainty in the tax structure and regulatory environment to maximize their growth, and that the public demands confidence that the environment – especially water – will be protected. To achieve these goals, Onorato supports:
 - *An Impact Tax on the natural gas that companies extract, which will bring Pennsylvania in line with other gas-producing states.* Pennsylvania should consult with industry, environmental and local government leaders to establish a severance tax that:
 - is carefully structured to encourage capital investment and employment of Pennsylvania workers;
 - is competitive with other states; and
 - provides incentives for the local use of natural gas – such as by allowing gas companies to pay a portion of their tax bill through “resource-in-lieu-of-payment” agreements with local governments.
 - *Prudent investment of the revenues from this Impact Tax.* Onorato’s priority for the revenue from the severance tax is:
 - to reverse the cuts to the Department of Environmental Protection’s operations and to ensure that the agency has adequate resources to effectively and efficiently regulate Marcellus shale development;
 - to provide resources to the local communities that are impacted by Marcellus shale extraction, including to address the wear-and-tear on local infrastructure; and
 - to fund Growing Greener 3 – an extension of the state’s essential environmental conservation and preservation programs.

- *Ensure appropriate permitting, monitoring and enforcement.* Onorato believes that state agencies should provide timely responses to permitting and other requests from businesses, and he will ensure that they have adequate resources to do the job well and within an appropriate timeframe.
- *Balance state-level and local decision-making.* Onorato will respect local communities' rights to make zoning decisions, while having uniform statewide regulations and implementation with regard to the industry's operations.
- *Address water levels and contamination.* Onorato recognizes that significant regulations are already in place and that modernization is needed. At the same time, he will ensure that Pennsylvania's regulations adequately address the level and quality of water, as well as other natural resources. Onorato will work with all stakeholders to develop appropriate laws and regulations where needed. At its best, this can spur innovation and the invention of new technologies that improve profitability and the environment, including maximizing the recycling of water.
- *Promote transparency and accountability.* Onorato will ensure that the public has easily and electronically accessible information on chemical use, water withdrawal and wastewater.
- *Develop a Marcellus Shale Workforce Development Blueprint.* Onorato will convene industry, labor, environmental and community leaders to ensure that Pennsylvanians have access to and are well-positioned for job creation that results from the Marcellus shale. Onorato will ensure that workforce development funds and other resources are deployed to implement the Blueprint and that community colleges and other education and training providers are engaged in this work.
- *Use natural gas production to create and retain Pennsylvania jobs.* Onorato will launch a strategic initiative to use reliable and affordable access to natural gas as an economic development advantage. Plastic, chemicals and a range of other industries rely heavily on natural gas and have found Pennsylvania a less attractive place to do business as other states and countries have offered plentiful natural gas. Onorato will use available natural gas infrastructure to attract businesses to shovel-ready sites and to keep existing companies in-state.
- **Increase Pennsylvania's clean-energy standards.** Onorato supports an increase in the amount of renewable energy – including solar and wind power – that is required in the state's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards, while preserving reliability and affordability. Onorato also supports including advanced coal combustion with limited carbon emissions as a "Tier II" energy in the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards, which will provide an incentive for new advanced coal technologies for carbon capture and storage.
- **Expand the use of solar energy in Pennsylvania.** Experts estimate that solar energy could create thousands of Pennsylvania jobs while providing affordable clean energy to save businesses and families money. Onorato will renew the Pennsylvania Sunshine Program so that companies and homeowners can continue to count on rebates to make solar projects feasible by assisting with the up-front costs.
- **Encourage new developments in advanced coal, nuclear energy, biomass and other energy sources.** Innovation will continue to make energy sources cleaner, safer and more affordable, and Onorato will position Pennsylvania as the national energy innovation leader. To advance this goal, Onorato will:

- *Pursue energy innovation.* Onorato will promote a system of carbon storage and transportation regulated by the Department of Environmental Protection. He will help establish the pilot projects necessary to prove that the necessary technologies work, with appropriate measures in place to protect the taxpayers and the companies from risk. Onorato will also seek other opportunities for pilot projects that safely advance new technologies and methods.
- *Challenge the incredible brainpower of Pennsylvania's institutions of higher education and research laboratories.* As described in his Plan for Higher Education, Onorato supports:
 - *Increasing federal research grants.* Onorato will set a target to establish a \$25 million per year competitive funding pool within four years to serve as a match for federal research grants, with a focus on energy and other critical sectors. The state match will increase Pennsylvania public and private colleges' and universities' chances of winning federal funds, and will boost the level of federal research dollars being invested in the Commonwealth to spur new energy discoveries.
 - *Encouraging industry-sponsored research.* Onorato will also set a target to establish a \$25 million per year competitive funding pool within four years to serve as a match for industry-sponsored research at public and private Pennsylvania colleges and universities. This initiative will improve the competitiveness of Pennsylvania firms by helping to develop new advanced energy technologies.
- **Help farmers drive down their costs while generating alternative energy.** As described in his Plan for Agriculture, Onorato will spearhead a comprehensive strategy to save farmers money on their utility bills through increased alternative energy production and incentives for conservation, including encouraging the development of community digesters to serve small and family farms. Onorato will provide start-up funds for regional digesters that convert manure to methane gas – protecting the environment while generating energy that is sold to earn money for farmers.
- **Support efforts to produce economically competitive, cleaner fuel.** Nearly one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions in the Mid-Atlantic come from transportation fuel, and Onorato will pursue strategies to reduce this impact while encouraging economic development. Onorato will support policies to reduce emissions from transportation fuels while growing the economy. He will also maintain the state's biodiesel mandate progress as Pennsylvania's homegrown biodiesel production increases.
- **Create the infrastructure for vehicles to use alternative energy sources.** For natural gas and electric vehicles to be more feasible, consumers and businesses need to know that they can recharge or refill when needed. Onorato will explore using state-operated locations such as Pennsylvania Turnpike rest stops to build out this infrastructure and work with local governments to do the same. In addition, Onorato will work with governments and authorities to evaluate whether it would be cost-efficient to shift their fleets or buses off of traditional fuel, and whether any state incentives or supports are needed to assist in the transition.
- **Remove disincentives to alternative energy production.** Onorato supports the state's Clean and Green law as a strategy for farmland preservation, and he believes that the law can and must simultaneously encourage the use and production of alternative energy.

Onorato supports legislation that limits the roll-back of the Clean and Green benefits to those portions of the land that would be used for energy production, as long as the remainder of the farmland is still being preserved.

Keeping Pennsylvanians in their homes and jobs by lowering their energy bills

Residential and commercial buildings use about 70% of all energy produced in the United States, and energy costs are a huge drain on family finances and on a business's bottom line. Bringing down energy use will create tens of thousands of new Pennsylvania jobs while saving consumers money. As Governor, Onorato will:

- **Launch the “PA Saves” Program – a landmark initiative to save families and businesses money while helping to save the country from ever-increasing emissions.** Experts estimate that 30% of Pennsylvania's energy needs in 2025 could be met through efficiency measures that are already widely available. Energy conservation and efficiency upgrades – like replacing inefficient windows and heaters, installing Green roofs and switching to Green lighting – save money over a few years through lower energy bills but have a relatively high up-front cost that often make the projects unfeasible. Onorato will solve this problem by creating the PA Saves Fund and encouraging local municipalities and authorities to offer similar programs. Residents and businesses would be able to borrow to cover the up-front costs of Green upgrades, and pay back over a number of years through their municipal or utility bill.
- **Lead by example in the construction and renovation of publicly owned buildings and use of vehicles.** Onorato will use the state as a model to demonstrate that Green practices are consistent with strong fiscal responsibility. Onorato supports:
 - *Requiring that all new construction and substantial renovation of state buildings, public universities and schools meet Green Building Standards.* These measures will save taxpayers money, since the buildings' lower operating costs will generate more than enough savings to offset the up-front efficiency costs.
 - *Increasing the amount of renewable energy purchased for state government's operation.* Pennsylvania is the largest state purchaser of Green energy in the nation – and Onorato will enhance that leadership position.
 - *Reducing overall energy use in state buildings by an additional 15% within four years.* Reducing energy use will save taxpayers money since the state's utility costs will go down.
 - *Increasing the percent of vehicles in the state fleet that rely on alternative fuels.* When it is cost-effective to do so, Onorato will shift the state's vehicle fleet towards alternative fuels and publish annual reports showing the percent of alternative-fuel vehicles in each state agency's fleet and for every local government unit.
 - *Encouraging municipalities and school districts to implement energy efficiency upgrades.* Lower energy costs mean lower property tax bills, and Onorato wants to ensure that taxpayer funds are being used where they matter most: on municipal services and in school classrooms, not on utility bills. Onorato will expand the use of the Guaranteed Energy Savings Act program and of Energy Savings Contracts in order to encourage energy efficient upgrades in public buildings, and he will increase technical assistance so that local officials have the tools they need to make informed, cost-effective decisions.

- **Support Pennsylvania’s energy conservation law.** Pennsylvania’s Act 129 requires electric companies to commit to conservation targets and plans through 2013. Onorato will call for setting future conservation goals, as provided under current law, in time to establish predictability and allow for research and development of the most cost-effective conservation strategies. Onorato also supports the most rapid feasible deployment of real-time pricing, smart meters and load controllers, along with education in how to use them, so that businesses and households have the option of monitoring and controlling their energy use to save money.
- **Encourage businesses to build Green.** Onorato will support incentives for businesses that follow Green Building Standards.
- **Challenge Pennsylvania to achieve “zero-energy use” new building construction by 2030.** “Zero-energy” buildings produce as much energy as they use. Onorato will create the Zero Energy Task Force to evaluate the potential impact on construction and operating costs of zero-energy construction and, if feasible, recommend a plan for achieving the goal of all new buildings being zero-energy use by 2030.
- **Encourage home buyers and businesses to receive an energy audit when they purchase their home or office.** Time-of-sale energy audits provide important information to new owners and give them tools to easily reduce their energy bill. Onorato will support marketing and education initiatives to encourage time-of-sale energy audits and efficiency upgrades through the use of Energy Efficiency Mortgage and other tools.
- **Maximize funding for weatherization programs.** Onorato is committed to programs that provide weatherization services to low- and middle-income households. He will maximize the impact of the federally funded Weatherization Assistance Program and ensure coordination between that program and the utilities’ low-income weatherization programs. Onorato will also encourage neighborhood-focused use of weatherization funds through targeted block-by-block weatherization upgrades of eligible homes in a concentrated area.
- **Provide relief from skyrocketing electricity costs.** Pennsylvania businesses and residents face untenable electric rate increases as current caps expire. Rate caps ended for about a quarter of Pennsylvania consumers at the end of December, and the remaining 60% of businesses and homes will see their rate caps end on the last day of 2010. Onorato hopes that this issue is addressed in the current session of the General Assembly in order to ease the transition to a fully competitive electricity market – and if not, he will do so immediately upon taking office. Onorato supports:
 - Limits on the amount that rates can increase over a 3-year phase-in period following the end of caps in any region of the state;
 - Strategies that assist and enable companies to enter into long-term purchasing agreements with predictable rates;
 - Encouraging bulk energy purchasing, including the use of regional authorities and other entities to help small businesses aggregate their purchasing power; and
 - Pursuing demand-side strategies for industrial and manufacturing firms in order to reduce their energy bills, including conservation and off-peak usage.

Fulfilling our commitment as stewards of Pennsylvania's environment

Pennsylvania's air, water and land are priceless and irreplaceable resources. They are also essential to the quality of life of the Commonwealth's residents and to our economy, including the vital tourism industry. Dan Onorato will protect Pennsylvania's environment. As Governor, Onorato will:

- **Support funding for the Departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation & Natural Resources.** These agencies provide critical services in protecting Pennsylvania's environment and public lands, and Onorato will ensure that they have the necessary resources to accomplish their missions.
- **Renew Growing Greener to continue environmental preservation and investment.** Onorato will use revenue from the Marcellus shale Impact Tax to fund Growing Greener 3 – the third phase of an investment strategy that was enacted by Governor Ridge and then built upon by Governor Rendell. Under Onorato, Growing Greener 3 will include:
 - Farmland preservation and other green space preservation – with the goal of 700,000 acres covered by 2015 – a two-thirds increase;
 - Addressing watershed needs and cleaning up rivers and streams;
 - Cleaning up brownfields and abandoned mines so that they can be returned to productive use or maintained as green space for community use;
 - Improving state parks and other recreational resources;
 - Supporting the infrastructure needs of the Game Commission and Fish & Boat Commission;
 - Expanding recycling;
 - Supporting community development and historic preservation; and
 - Advanced energy deployment.

Onorato understands that having operating funding in addition to capital funding will enable Growing Greener to reach its full potential, particularly with regard to watershed protection. Onorato also believes that counties should continue to have flexibility on how some of these resources are invested.

- **Accelerating efforts to bring about clean air and clean water.** Many of the policy proposals in this plan will result in clean air and water, which Onorato believes are critical outcomes. Onorato supports strong state-level regulation, monitoring and enforcement. In addition, Onorato will promote clean water as a core asset by:
 - *Offering incentives to create buffers along waterways.* Onorato will provide financial incentives for establishing a healthy buffer along the most critical waterways to reduce pollution from stormwater and runoff, focusing on protecting the areas that need help the most. These buffers should be at least 100 feet – and more for sensitive waterways.
 - *Providing leadership to clean up the Chesapeake Bay.* Onorato will advocate for adequate federal funding and technical assistance to support Chesapeake Bay conservation efforts. Onorato supports maintaining the state as the primary entity for regulation and enforcement of Pennsylvania's watershed implementation plan as long as the state is meeting its commitments.
 - *Encouraging agricultural practices that promote clean water.* Onorato will aim to double the number of acres in Pennsylvania with nutrient management plans, cover crops and no-till planting through the use of technical support and financial

incentives. Onorato also supports direct funding for technical assistance to farmers in the design, planning and implementation of conservation practices, including nutrient management.

- *Continuing innovative programs that encourage forward-looking land use.* Onorato supports programs that encourage the use of green infrastructure and tax credits such as the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) initiative, which supports best management practices on farms to improve water quality.
- **Improving Pennsylvania’s water infrastructure.** Pennsylvania faces significant challenges relating to drinking water and waste water infrastructure – challenges which also hold the potential for job creation through infrastructure investment. Onorato recognizes the importance of infrastructure to the state’s economic vitality and public health, and he will ensure that water resource planning and infrastructure investments are priorities. Onorato will also encourage the strategic use of parks and other green space to help manage storm water.
- **Commit to environmentally sustainable development and management of state forest and park lands.** Onorato believes that the first priority for the use of royalty funds from Marcellus shale gas from state lands should be to reinvest in conservation through the original intent of the Oil and Gas Lease Fund. In addition, Onorato will study the environmental impact of existing leases before leasing additional acreage. Onorato will also follow practices that enable Pennsylvania to maintain its independent certification for sustainable forest management operations.
- **Encourage recycling.** Onorato will support policies and changes in law that increase recycling, including a focus on electronic waste. Onorato will also work with the construction and waste management communities to launch an initiative to increase the amount of construction waste and deconstruction material that is recycled or reused.
- **Expand the use of trails and other recreational opportunities.** Onorato will convene a Trails Advisory Committee to provide advice and coordination on trail planning and construction.
- **Support environmental education.** Onorato is a strong supporter of environmental education and will ensure that it incorporates sustainability practices.

Encouraging smart and sustainable growth

Dan Onorato understands that it is impossible to achieve meaningful energy security and to protect the environment without a commitment to smart and sustainable growth. This issue is critical to Pennsylvania’s future economic vitality and will be addressed in detail in the forthcoming Onorato Plan for Strong Communities, which will include the following policies:

- **Champion local government reform.** Just as he has done as Allegheny County Executive, Onorato will be an advocate for greater efficiency and improved service delivery and will use the role of Governor to encourage local reform. Onorato will provide incentives for shared service delivery, consolidation and multi-municipality planning. He will also address barriers to collaboration and to smart growth, such as outdated laws and the current patchwork of pension systems. Onorato will develop these policies based on a strategy that encourages the inclusion of core communities in regional collaboration efforts. In addition, Onorato will ensure that the Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program and the Shared Municipal Services Program are adequately funded.

- **Advance smart transportation policy.** Onorato will improve Pennsylvania’s infrastructure in a manner that encourages smart growth. Onorato supports a “fix it first” policy and will pursue programs like the Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative that focus on established communities. Onorato will encourage and provide incentives for transit-oriented development and will emphasize the importance of public transportation. In addition, he will be an advocate in Washington, D.C., for the resources Pennsylvania needs to improve high-speed, inter-city rail.
- **Build on the state’s leadership role.** Onorato supports the role of the State Planning Board on land use and smart growth policies and planning. Onorato will also endorse and expand the use of the Keystone Principles that guide state agency decision-making on grants and other investments. Onorato will continue aligning environmental, economic and community development investments to revitalize core communities and first-ring suburbs.
- **Pursue sustainable agricultural policies.** Onorato’s Plan for Agriculture creates a blueprint for growing one of Pennsylvania’s leading industries. It includes a proposal for technical assistance and other support to encourage farms to become certified organic. In addition, Onorato will develop local and regional food systems that connect farmers to the marketplace by spearheading a regional foodshed development strategy that includes:
 - *Creating a Center for Regional Agricultural Economies in the Department of Agriculture.* The Center will provide leadership and technical analysis to identify foodshed regions where goods can be produced, processed and then procured, and will help farmers connect with and market to small, mid-sized and large purchasers within their region.
 - *Providing financial incentives for schools to buy local farm goods.* In addition to expanding the Farm-to-School Initiative, Onorato will increase the state’s reimbursement rate for schools that buy fresh local farm goods in their foodshed region as part of their breakfast and lunch programs.
 - *Supporting the Pennsylvania Preferred Campaign.* PA Preferred is a successful branding and marketing initiative, and Onorato will support it and seek its enactment into law to ensure its continuation.

DAN ONORATO: USING ENERGY LEADERSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION TO CREATE NEW JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Dan Onorato will champion economic development policies that build Pennsylvania’s competitive advantage in the Energy Economy. Onorato’s agenda will enable energy production and energy conservation to thrive, while responsibly protecting and enhancing the environment. The end result will be a stronger economy and environment to pass down to the next generations of Pennsylvanians.