

Ohio needs an A-to-Z energy policy

By BRIAN TUCKER

4:30 am, September 26, 2011

It's hard not to appreciate the fact that Gov. John Kasich decided to hold a two-day energy summit last week in Columbus, nor to ignore the estimated 1,000 people who attended the gathering.

Sure, many of them were lobbyists from special interests, or executives from companies (or those hoping to be) in some sector of this burgeoning industry. That's fine, because we should want people at such a conference to be more than the academic types who help spot opportunities or advise of pitfalls. It was important that folks were there who want to make money in energy, because that's how we'll attract fresh investment dollars and create jobs.

And although the 800-pound gorilla in the ballroom probably was shale oil and gas — given the massive deposits that have been forecast in the Marcellus and Utica shales deep beneath our state's lands — a comprehensive energy policy also must include Ohio's existing gas and electric utilities, coal mining companies and alternative/renewable energy industries such as wind, water and solar.

<http://www.crainscleveland.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110926/SUB1/309269990>



Oil and gas energy's pay day: \$500 billion

By David Hutton

TimesReporter.com staff writer

Posted Sep 24, 2011 @ 01:00 PM

COLUMBUS — When Chesapeake Energy taps its first well in Tuscarawas County in early October, it will put the county at ground zero for oil and gas exploration.

It also will put the region at the forefront of the debate over oil and gas exploration and its potential impact, which was in the spotlight during the 21st Century Energy & Economic Development Summit.

The two-day event wrapped up Thursday and drew more than 1,000 energy-sector lobbyists, business leaders and government officials interested in what could become an energy economy worth an estimated \$500 billion in the state.

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