

PA Environment Digest

An Update On Environmental Issues In PA

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Republicans Agree On A General Funding Spend Number, Now The Hard Part

Senate and House Republicans and Gov. Corbett Wednesday announced an agreement on a General Fund spend number-- \$27.656 billion, taking the first major step toward resolving their differences over largest portion of the state budget.

This spending cap is about \$500 million more than the Governor's request and almost identical to what Senate and House Republicans have been advocating.

In return, the Governor received a commitment from the Leaders to adopt the \$1.65 billion tax credit initiative he proposed to attract the Shell ethane plant to Beaver County.

There is no word yet on whether the Keystone Fund will be restored to the Senate's level of \$19 million or the House proposal of full restoration of all \$38 million. There is also no word yet on whether other environmental funding will be restored.

In addition, there is also apparent agreement on at least some funding increases over the Governor's budget request--

- \$245 million for higher education restorations;
- \$100 million for K-12 accountability block grant programs;
- \$82 million for county welfare programs, restoring half the funds that were removed; and
- \$25 million for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit.

NewsClips:

[Framework For \\$27.656 Billion Budget Reached](#)

[Corbett Agrees To Restore Budget](#)

[PA Has A Deal On Budget](#)

[Any PA Budget Deal Remains Under Wraps](#)

[State Budget Agreement Launches Other Negotiations](#)

[Corbett, Lawmakers Reach Deal On \\$1.65 Billion Shell Tax Break](#)

[Corbett's Tax Breaks For Shell Raises Questions About Jobs](#)

[Support For Shell Tax Break In Monaca, Questions On Job Claims](#)

[Corbett Launches Public Defense Of Shell Tax Credit](#)

[Corbett Lines Up Shell Tax Credit Crew](#)
[Shell's \\$3.2 Billion Plant Estimated To Create 17,000 Jobs](#)
[Big Test For Corbett Looms In Election, Tax Credit](#)
[Are Tax Breaks Effective To Reel In Businesses?](#)
[Shell Tax Credit Breaks Designed To Be Offset](#)
[Op-Ed: Shell Tax Breaks Would Pay Off For PA](#)
[Editorial: Corbett's Shell Tax Break Good Deal For State](#)