

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

**Senate Bill No. 881**

AN ACT concerning

**Environment – Gas and Oil – Coalbed Methane Production**

FOR the purpose of establishing the minimum required distance from an unleased property boundary for a coalbed methane well; authorizing the Department of the Environment to make inspections it determines necessary to ensure compliance with certain requirements under certain circumstances; altering the requirement that the owner of leased lands surrender the lands under certain circumstances; defining a certain term; and generally relating to coalbed methane production and gas and oil.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Environment  
Section 14–102, 14–112, and 14–113  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1996 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

BY adding to  
Article – Environment  
Section 14–121  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1996 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)