

1 **H. B. 2874**

2
3 (By Delegates Eldridge, Barill, Campbell, Tomblin,
4 Young, Moye and Manypenny)

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6 [Introduced March 8, 2013; referred to the
7 Committee on Energy, Industry and Labor, Economic
8 Development and Small Business then the Judiciary.]

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10 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
11 adding thereto a new section, designated §36-3-8a, relating to
12 requiring natural gas lessors to provide surface owners on
13 whose properties natural gas producing wells are drilled up to
14 three hundred million cubic feet of free gas per year; and
15 providing that the lessor and an owner may agree to a larger
16 amount.

17 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

18 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
19 by adding thereto a new section, designated §36-3-8a, to read as
20 follows:

21 **ARTICLE 3. FORM AND EFFECT OF DEEDS AND CONTRACTS.**

22 **§36-3-8a. Natural gas leases; free gas.**

23 A natural gas lessor who drills a natural gas producing well
24 shall provide up to three hundred million cubic feet of free gas
25 per year to the owner of the surface on whose property the well is

1 drilled. However, the lessor and the surface owner may agree to an
2 amount in excess of three hundred million cubic feet.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require a natural gas lessor to provide a surface owner on whose property a natural gas producing well is drilled up to three hundred million cubic feet of free gas per year. The bill also provides that the lessor and surface owner may agree to a larger amount.

This section is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.