

Energetic Thanks

To the Editor:

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the terrific coverage of energy law (January 2011 *Michigan Bar Journal*). Of course, you've only scratched the surface of this vital topic, and I hope you'll return to it in future issues.

Of special interest to me is the article by Susan Hlywa Topp on deep shale gas production ("Deep Shale Natural Gas Production in Michigan: Opportunities, Problems and a Shot in the Dark"). It may only be a coincidence that an article appears in the January/February issue of *Foreign Affairs* on the same subject. In "The Good News About Gas," John Deutch states that "...in the long run, the world will need to transition from fossil fuels to carbon-free sources of energy, such as wind, solar, geothermal, and nuclear energy. In this sense, shale gas *is a way station en route to a new energy future*—not a permanent solution to the problem." (Emphasis added.)

It is easy to forget that all fossil fuels are a finite commodity on and in the planet, and one day they will all be gone or not economically accessible. We should therefore exercise caution in the extraction processes. When the fossil fuels are gone, there will still be people needing clean water.

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