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House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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HOUSE REPUBLICAN ENERGY TASK FORCE

Date: January 31, 2011

To: All House Members

From: Representative Rose Marie Swanger

Subject: New Legislation

PEOPLE'S CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Article I, Section 2, of the Pennsylvania Constitution grants the people of this Commonwealth the power to "reform or abolish their government in such manner as they may think proper." I believe that this right is one of our most vital liberties and I intend to introduce legislation that will advance reform efforts.

My proposal, known as the Citizens' Constitutional Convention Act of 2011, will authorize an election on November 8, 2011 to call for a constitutional convention. The bill will also allow for the election of delegates by the people of Pennsylvania on that same day.

Highlights of this proposal include:

- The Convention runs from December 2011 to September 2012, with committee hearings being held in January and the full Convention operations beginning in February;
- Elected delegates will represent all geographic areas of the Commonwealth;
- Delegates may not be public officials or lobbyists;
- All articles of the Constitution, except for Article I (our "Bill of Rights") will be on the table;
- A Convention Communications Commission will be created to provide for transparency in regard to convention deliberations and records;
- Convention proposals to amend the Constitution will be submitted to the voters of Pennsylvania.

My proposal strives to create a citizen-based Constitutional Convention. While public officials will have a role in helping the convention delegates to prepare for the Convention, deliberations and decision-making will solely be in the hands of the citizens of Pennsylvania.

If you would like to join me in this historic effort to reform government and move Pennsylvania forward, please contact Lily Horst, 787-2686, or via e-mail at lhurst@pahousegop.com.