

MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Rep. Chelsa Wagner

Date: February 3, 2011

Subject: Co-sponsorship of the Green Work Force Training Act

In the near future, I plan to re-introduce House Bill 1550 of the 2009-2010 legislative session. My bill is the companion legislation to Senator Shirley Kitchen's Senate Bill 364 of the 2011-2012 legislative session and creates a green work force training program in the Department of Labor and Industry. This program would promote job training related to energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.

Clean energy technology is a successful and growing industry the Commonwealth. The latest Green Jobs Survey by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry shows that more than 41,000 Pennsylvanians have jobs at a renewable energy business and 65,000 more are employed by firms engaged in installing energy efficiency technologies.

The department, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection and related organizations, would establish minimum training requirements necessary for an applicant to be considered for a grant under the program. These training programs would increase energy efficiency and energy independence in the Commonwealth, while investing in our economy by training employees in cutting-edge industries. Grants would be awarded to applicants with experience in implementing worker training and education programs, the ability to identify individuals who would benefit from job training related to energy efficiency industries and the ability to leverage additional public and private resources to fund training programs.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation, please contact Johnathan Detrick in my office at JDetrick@pahouse.net.