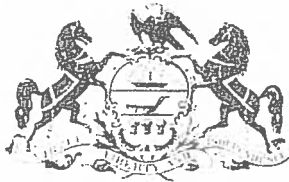


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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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APPOINTMENTS

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS
THE CENTER FOR RURAL PENNSYLVANIA

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Tina Pickett
110th Legislative District

DATE: February 9, 2011

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation

I plan to introduce legislation amending the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Act (Act of December 19, 1984, P.L. 1140, No. 223). The amendment which I am proposing will extend only to natural gas well operations in the Marcellus Shale formation. Currently, the act establishes five defenses for a well operator to rebut their presumption of liability in the event of damages arising from a well operation. The amendment I am proposing will extend the presumption of liability on the part of a well operator for damage to a water supply within 2,500 feet of a well. Additionally, the amendment also will extend the timeframe for when the damage was to have occurred to 24 months.

Finally, I am proposing that well operators be required to conduct a test of water quality and flow within 2,500 feet of a well operation prior to drilling, and to conduct, upon a landowner or water purveyor's request, up to two follow-up tests within a 24 month period after completion of the well.

I believe the protection of water supplies is of critical importance to landowners throughout the Commonwealth. While most well drilling occurs without disruption to water supplies, there have been several recent instances, of water supplies being damaged or lost due to these operations. These situations have uncovered shortcomings in existing law which I hope to correct through this legislation.

I believe landowners deserve a more enhanced degree of protection when it involves their water well, springs, and other water sources. I hope you agree with me and will offer your name as a co-sponsor to this legislation.

*Groupwise to Jill Brightbill
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Phone: 783-8238*

TP/jb