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MEMORANDUM

TO:

All House Members

FROM:

Representative Mike Reese

DATE:

December 15, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-sponsor Request - Potential Impact Radius ("PIR") disclosure

Attached please find proposed legislation that I am introducing that will add a section to Title 68 (Real and Personal Property) to require a Potential Impact Radius ("PIR") disclosure statement in easement agreements for high pressure gas pipelines.

As natural gas exploration and production grow in the Commonwealth, natural gas developers will be increasingly proposing easement agreements to property owners for the installation of high pressure natural gas gathering and transmission pipelines. Because these pipelines transport natural gas at higher pressures than distribution pipelines, it is important that property owners are made aware of the possible safety issues associated with these pipelines.

Gathering and transmission pipelines are assigned a PIR pursuant to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration Gas Integrity Management Rule §192.903. The PIR is defined as the radius of a circle within which the potential failure of a pipeline could have significant impact on people or property. It is determined by factoring the diameter of pipeline and the maximum pressure of the gas being transported.

My legislation would require that a property owner receive a disclosure statement identifying the pipeline's PIR. Because these pipelines can range in size and pressure, the PIR can exceed 1,000 feet and I believe it is important for property owners to be informed of the PIR before entering an easement agreement.

If you would like to join me as a co-sponsor of this bill, please contact Candace VanScyoc via email at cvanscyoc@pahousegop.com