

Colin Fitzsimmons - Support for HB 1855 (PN 2844)

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January 6, 2012

To: Members of the House Consumer Affairs Committee
From: Paul King, President, Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Re: Support for HB1855 (P.N. 2844)

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council I wish to offer our support for House Bill 1855 (P.N. 2844), scheduled for consideration by the Consumer Affairs Committee on January 10, which would establish water well construction and decommissioning standards for water wells.

Beyond the immediate public health value of this legislation – underscored by recent flooding throughout Pennsylvania – there is considerable environmental interest as well. As you know the concern of well contamination from both past and current resource development activities has come to the forefront of public attention. Pennsylvania has an untold number of abandoned and unidentified oil and gaswells and mine sites. Each of these, in addition to new gas and oil wells being developed in Pennsylvania today, present potential water contamination pathways.

Having standards in place for water well construction sets an important initial preventative measure, and frankly allows for a much better understanding of what threats past and current activities to public and private water resource supplies.

We urge you to support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sent by John Walliser
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