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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 18, 2009
To: All House Members
From: Representative Robert L. Freeman *R.L.F.*
Subject: Proposed Legislation – Reintroduction of the Integrated Water Resources Restoration, Protection and Management Act (HB 2266 2007-08 Session)

In the very near future, I plan to reintroduce House Bill 2266 from the 2007-2008 session. This legislation was introduced last session by Representative David Steil and proposed the creation of the Integrated Water Resources Restoration, Protection and Management Act. Representative Steil worked with the PA Department of Environmental Protection and numerous interest groups and local government associations to craft this legislation.

Presently, the Storm Water Management Act (Act 167 of 1978) is not sufficiently comprehensive to address the needs of the Commonwealth. While the Storm Water Management Act provides the basis for storm water management planning by counties, additional provisions are needed to provide integrated and thorough planning and management of water resources in watershed-based planning areas and to address current and past water resource management problems, as well as prospective and ongoing development.

This freestanding act will help to address some of the limitations in Act 167. It will seek to provide more comprehensive storm water planning and management. It will help to restore, reclaim, protect and maintain the water quality and quantity within the Commonwealth. It will encourage regional implementation of integrated water resource management plans within watersheds. It will provide a valuable tool to counties and municipalities in authorizing the creation of water resources management authorities to regulate, manage, operate and maintain facilities and development that may affect storm water runoff or water resources within the watershed. It will authorize these authorities to levy a fee to pay for costs associated with planning, implementation, administration and enforcement of the Storm water Management Act or this proposed Integrated Water Resources Restoration, Protection and Management Act.

If you would like to join me by cosponsoring this legislation, please contact Danielle in my office at 783-3815 or via email at DBrown@pahouse.net.