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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL HOUSE MEMBERS

FROM: REPRESENTATIVE PAUL I. CLYMER

SUBJECT: HISTORIC COVERED BRIDGES – ARSON OF A HISTORIC RESOURCE
PREVIOUS HB 552 OF 2009-2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2010

A number of historic covered bridges have been set on fire in my district. While current Commonwealth law provides for varying levels of arson offenses, there is no specific provision for, or protection of, historic structures.

In the near future, I will be reintroducing legislation to create an offense of arson of a historic resource. A historic resource would be defined as a building or structure, including a covered bridge, which has either:

- been in existence for more than 100 years, or
- is listed in the National Register of Historic Places or the Pennsylvania Register of Historic Places.

Any person who sets on fire, or causes an explosion, intending to damage or destroy a historic resource would be guilty of a felony of the second degree and would be subject to a mandatory prison term of at least one year.

If you would like to cosponsor this important legislation, please contact Norma Aviles at 783-3154 or via GroupWise at naviles@pahousegop.com.

PIC/nia

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