

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Chelsa Wagner

DATE: January 3, 2010

SUBJECT: Request for Co-Sponsorship

In the near future, I plan to re-introduce legislation that would amend Section 6 of the Second Class County Port Authority Act of 1955. Specifically, my amendment would provide for gubernatorial and legislative appointments to the Board.

My legislation would provide state oversight by changing the composition of the Board through the addition of gubernatorial and legislative appointees. Under current law, the county executive appoints all nine Second class county Port Authority board members. Since the state provides approximately 60 percent of funding for the operation of the Port Authority, I feel it is important to change the representation of the Board to ensure adequate oversight of state funds. Accordingly, my legislation provides for the appointment of one member to the Board by the Governor, and four legislative appointees selected by the House and Senate majority and minority leadership. Given the concentration of Port Authority service in the City of Pittsburgh, my legislation also provides for one board member to be appointed by the Mayor with approval by City Council.

The 2007 Transit Agency Operation Audit of the Port Authority by the Transportation Funding and Reform Commission determined that the current Board appointment procedure "raises a question of balance." In addition, the need for this particular reform was cited as the "most significant item" in the Auditor General's 2007 Performance Audit of the Port Authority.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation, please contact Johnathan Detrick in my office at JDetrick@pahouse.net. Thank you!