

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Phyllis Mundy

DATE: January 5, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation: Prohibiting hydraulic fracturing or horizontal drilling within 2,500 feet of a primary source of a community water system

I will soon re-introduce a bill (former House bill 2608 of the 2009-2010 Legislative Session) to amend the Oil and Gas Act of 1984 to prohibit wells using hydraulic fracturing or horizontal drilling from being drilled within 2,500 feet of a primary source of supply for a community water system, such as a lake or reservoir. In addition, it would prohibit such drilling underneath a primary water source. The Department of Environmental Protection would be prohibited from any waiver of the aforementioned restrictions.

This legislation seeks to protect our water from contamination during the exploration and drilling of the Marcellus Shale deposit in Pennsylvania. In light of the many accidents that have occurred from drilling the Marcellus Shale, it is clear that we must immediately enact stronger legislative safeguards to prevent the hydraulic fracturing process from inflicting more damage upon our environment and public health.

As two reservoirs in my district provide drinking water to thousands of my constituents, contamination of one or both would equate to a serious public health crisis. While this bill only addresses one of my many concerns regarding Marcellus Shale drilling, it would take us one step closer to keeping pace with the fast-moving industry and towards the adequate protection of the environment and public health within the Commonwealth.

PRIOR CO-SPONSORS:

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Should you wish to co-sponsor this very important piece of legislation, please contact Kris Bernard in my office at kbernard@pahouse.net or by calling 717-783-1614.