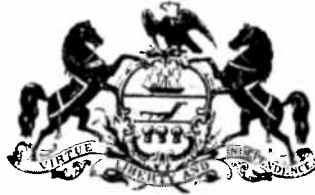


**KATHY L. RAPP, MEMBER**  
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CAUCUSES  
ALZHEIMER'S  
AUTISM  
PRO-LIFE  
TIMBER



# House of Representatives

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LEGISLATIVE AIR & WATER  
POLLUTION CONTROL &  
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All House Members

**FROM:** Representative Kathy Rapp *KR*

**DATE:** January 6, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Co-Sponsorship: **FUELS FOR SCHOOLS AND BEYOND GRANT PROGRAM – Former HB 1040**

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce legislation that will create the Fuels for Schools and Beyond Grant Program. This legislation authorizes \$15 million from the Alternative Energy Investment Act (Act of Jul. 9, 2008, Special Session 1, No. 1) to fund matching grants up to \$300,000 to schools who are incorporating biomass heaters into their buildings.

Biomass heating is a proven technology and Pennsylvania is home to a prosperous and vibrant biomass industry. Moreover, increased use of biomass as a fuel source can contribute to Pennsylvania's energy security through a more diversified mix of energy sources. In addition consider these facts about biomass heating:

- Utilizing one ton of wood for heat displaces approximately 79 gallons of fuel oil that would have otherwise been used.
- Biomass has been recognized as a cost-efficient fuel and can significantly reduce expenditures associated with energy needs.
- The economic value of biomass use is significant. Studies have indicated that 90% of the funds used to produce and utilize biomass energy remain in local economies, whereas only about 10% of the funds used to produce and utilize fossil fuels remain locally.
- Using biomass as a fuel source provides a beneficial use for underutilized low grade timber, resulting in healthier and more productive forests, and creates additional forestry and agricultural jobs for Pennsylvania residents.

Following three funded years for this program, the legislation requires that the Department of Agriculture, in addition to annual reports, make recommendations for changes that would allow this program to be extended beyond schools to other public buildings such as hospitals, municipal buildings, and prisons.

If you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Annette Mioff at 787-1367 or [amioff@pahousegop.com](mailto:amioff@pahousegop.com). Thank you.

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