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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Neal P. Goodman

DATE: January 11, 2011

RE: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation - Constitutional Convention on Property Tax Reform

(former HB 1353)

In the near future, I will be re-introducing legislation from last session calling for a limited constitutional convention on property tax reform. For years the state legislature has grappled with how best to reduce or eliminate property taxes, yet it remains one of the top concerns of Pennsylvania homeowners. I believe the time has come to give citizens a greater say in how to address this issue.

Under my legislation, the constitutional convention, if a majority of electors vote to hold one, would be tasked with developing and sending to the electorate three proposals to reduce or eliminate property taxes. All three proposals would appear on the ballot at the general election following the convention in the form of constitutional amendments, and voters will vote to approve one of the proposals or have the choice to make no changes to the current system. The proposal that receives the most votes is the proposal that will be adopted for the state.

Similar to other proposals, the convention shall consist of three delegates elected from each senatorial district for a total of 150 delegates. My legislation also proposes to pay for the constitutional convention with funding from the non-lapsing leadership accounts of the General Assembly.

Previous co-sponsors: ARGALL, BARRAR, BEYER, BOYD, BRENNAN, DeLUCA, DENLINGER, FAIRCHILD, GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, HARHART, HARKINS, HORNAMAN, KORTZ, MAHONEY, MELIO, MOUL, PRESTON, PYLE, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, J. TAYLOR, YUDICHAK, MURT, SWANGER, and HANNA.

If you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Linda Reed at <u>lreed@pahouse.net</u> or 787-2798.