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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members

FROM: Representative Margo Davidson

DATE: January 21, 2011

RE: Co-sponsorship of Legislation – Adding the General Assembly and the Judiciary to the Procurement Code and Eliminating Sole-Source Contracting

In the near future I plan to introduce legislation to amend Title 62 to include the General Assembly and the Judiciary as Commonwealth Agencies subject to the Procurement Code and to eliminate sole source contracting.

Millions of taxpayer dollars are spent each year on services rendered and goods and supplies provided to the Commonwealth by third party contractors. Yet the Commonwealth's Procurement Code currently does not require the General Assembly or the Judiciary to follow any competitive bidding or other rules currently required of the executive branch agencies to insure transparency in the contracting process or the awarding of the most cost-effective contracts. In addition, the executive branch agencies currently circumvent the competitive bidding requirements in the Procurement Code by utilizing sole source contracting – a practice that serves to shut out many small businesses and diverse players in the marketplace. My bill will eliminate this practice and require competitive bidding for all State contracts – including contracts for professionals such as accountants and lawyers - and subject the General Assembly and the Judiciary to the bidding requirements of the Procurement Code. Not only will this enhance the ability of small and minority businesses to compete for State contracts, but it will go a long way toward re-establishing the public's trust in our State government.

Please join me in co-sponsoring this legislation by contacting Deb Bricker in my office at (717) 783-4907 or dbricker@pahouse.net.