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*House of Representatives*

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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January 20, 2011

**TO:** All House Members

**SUBJECT:** Slate Recycling and Reuse Resolution

**FROM:** Representative Julie Harhart

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH' with a flourish.

I have prepared and will soon be re-introducing a resolution requesting the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to conduct a thorough study of Pennsylvania's slate industry, specifically seeking ways to utilize slate waste in highway construction and civil engineering applications. This was former House Resolution 510 from last session.

Pennsylvania is blessed with an active slate mining industry, producing quality Pennsylvania products for a variety of building uses. However, the slate industry is endangered not only by a poor economy, but also because of a lack of uses for the waste by-products produced by mining. The piles of slate waste are also environmental and safety threats, as well as eyesores in our local communities. The growing quantity of the waste is cause for concern and an impetus to seek alternative uses for the by-product.

Slate waste is a potentially effective material for a variety of applications that use crushed rock and/or conventional aggregate materials. If it can be determined slate waste is an appropriate material for highway construction and civil engineering uses it is not presently approved for, it would open new markets for an industry that needs them, and provide environmental benefits to the Commonwealth.

The resolution I am introducing would request PennDOT to undertake a study to determine and document the feasibility of using slate waste in projects associated with highway construction, concrete aggregate and drainfields, or as a skid-resistant aggregate. Slate has unique physical properties that merit such a study. Also, because of a national standard that limits slate's uses, it needs to be determined if such limitations are appropriate, or if slate could be safely used in applications where it is currently excluded.

The study would be technical, environmental and economic in nature and would also examine the experience of slate usage in other states.

Pennsylvania's slate industry deserves our help. I invite your co-sponsorship and ask you to contact Michele Warren at [mwarren@pahousegop.com](mailto:mwarren@pahousegop.com) or call 772-5398.