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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 25, 2011

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Martin Causer *MTC*
67th Legislative District

SUBJECT: Reintroduction of Legislation- Formerly HB 625 – **Forest Reserves
Municipal Financial Relief Law**

In the near future I intend to reintroduce legislation, which will amend the Forest Reserves Municipal Relief Law. This was House Bill 625 from last session.

This legislation is very important for counties in which state agencies own large tracts of land. The state agencies do pay a payment in lieu of taxes to the local municipalities, school districts and counties. However, the state agencies are obtaining hundreds of thousands of dollars from the sale of timber, oil and natural gas from these properties. No revenue from the sale of these resources is coming back to the struggling local municipalities. The local governments where the state land is located are restricted from future economic development and continually struggle with the limited tax base.

This legislation would provide for twenty percent of the total revenue collected from the sale of timber, oil and natural gas on state owned land (with the exception of state game lands) to be returned to the local governments in which the resources were harvested. The twenty percent would be split between the county, school district and local municipality. This legislation is similar to federal law that provides revenue to local governments from the sale of timber on the National Forest.

If you would like to become a co-sponsor of this legislation, please contact Jenise Wilfong at 787-5075 or via email at jwilfong@pahousegop.com.

Previous Co-Sponsors of HB 625: BAKER, BEAR, BEYER, BOBACK, BOYD, CREIGHTON, EVERETT, FAIRCHILD, FLECK, GABLER, GEIST, GEORGE, GINGRICH, HARRIS, HENNESSEY, HESS, HORNAMAN, M. KELLER, KULA, MAJOR, METCALFE, MILLARD, MOUL, MURT, O'NEILL, PEIFER, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, RAPP, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROHRER, SIPTROTH, STEVENSON, SWANGER, J. TAYLOR AND VULAKOVICH