

Senate of Pennsylvania

Senator Anthony H. Williams

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DATE:

December 16, 2010

TO:

All Senators

FROM:

Senator Anthony H. Williams

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation: Hydraulic Fracturing of Natural Gas

In the near future, I will be reintroducing SB 1473 from the 2009 – 2010 legislative session. The purpose of this legislation is to protect Pennsylvania citizens and landowners from environmental hazards caused by hydraulic fracturing by companies during the extraction process for natural gas, also known as "fracking".

Under current law, these companies are not required to release to the public the specific chemicals, chemical compounds and total volumes of fracturing fluids that are used in the fracking process.

The legislation I plan to introduce would require these companies to file a report with the Department of Environmental Protection that includes a complete list of chemicals, chemical compounds and total volumes of fluids used at each drilling site in operation. The Department of Environmental Protection will make this list available to the general public on the department's website. In the event of a medical emergency, the concentration of these chemicals and their chemical formulas would be made known to the emergency personnel, while still protecting the trade secrets of the energy and drill companies with a confidentiality clause.

Previous co-sponsors of include Senators Fontana, Tartaglione, Washington, Rafferty, O'Pake, Costa, Erickson and Hughes.

If you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Donald Gordon, Esq., at 787-5970 or email dgordon@pasenate.com.