



FEB 11 2011

Senate of Pennsylvania

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL SENATORS

FROM: SENATOR CHARLES T. McILHINNEY, JR. *Charles T. McIlhinney*

DATE: February 11, 2011

RE: **Co-Sponsorship Memo #10 - Safe Drinking Water Act**

I will be introducing legislation to strengthen Pennsylvania's Safe Drinking Water Act and safeguard the health of the Commonwealth's residents by requiring special protection of the groundwater, rivers and aquifers that supply our drinking water.

Our groundwater sources are vulnerable to contamination by various land uses – gas stations, industries and storage tanks can leak pollutants into the ground below – thus contaminating the groundwater. The intakes on our rivers and streams are also vulnerable to a wide range of pollutants including runoff pollution, industrial discharges, leaks and spills.

This legislation establishes 'critical zones' for surface water intakes and 'wellhead protection areas' for community groundwater wells. The Department of Environmental Protection is responsible to develop regulations and model ordinances which are to be deemed statewide minimum requirements for surface water intake protection and wellhead protection. Local zoning ordinances are to include wellhead protection ordinances and/or surface water protection ordinances. Any violation of this act – or the rules, regulations or Departmental orders adopted pursuant to it – may be assessed civil as well as criminal penalties as prescribed.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill 777 from last session and had the following cosponsors: KITCHEN, LEACH, RAFFERTY, BOSCOLA, GREENLEAF, ERICKSON, ALLOWAY, TOMLINSON, COSTA, FERLO, WASHINGTON, DINNIMAN, VANCE, WONDERLING, HUGHES, BAKER AND FARNESE.

If you would like to co-sponsor the legislation, please call my office at 7-7305 or e-mail mriddle@pasen.gov.