



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 #14 - FIELD Legislation**

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would provide greater opportunities for Pennsylvania's farm families to responsibly build structures and engage in agricultural product marketing and agritourism enterprises on their farms without local interference.

Many families owning smaller farms are finding it difficult economically to continue their farms in their current state. To sustain their farms in the future, more farm families are considering changes to their on-farm operations to increase efficiency of farm production and provide families with additional income from the farm. However, local zoning, land development and construction regulation, and the bureaucracy and cost in obtaining local governmental approval of proposed projects stifle farm families' ability to make these needed changes. At the same time, reasonable standards for land development and building structures must be established and met by farm families who use land and engage in enterprises to improve the economic viability of the farm.

My legislation, the Family Farm Initiative and Enterprise Land Development Act (FIELD), proposes to create and establish within the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture a Farm Enterprise Standards Board whose responsibility would be to identify and develop uniform minimum land development and construction standards for agricultural supporting structures, and agricultural marketing and agritourism enterprises. The Board will be authorized to determine whether a proposed agricultural building, agricultural marketing or agritourism project meets the minimum standards established by the Board. Farms whose agricultural building, marketing or agritourism project meets the uniform minimum standards by the Board will be excluded from the minimum zoning, land development and construction standards imposed by local ordinances and the requirement for local government approvals.

I invite you to join with me in sponsoring this legislation and ask that you call my office at 7-7305 or e-mail mriddle@pasen.gov.

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