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House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Representative Seth Grove 

Subject: Proposed Legislation – Designating the Pennsylvania Rifle as the official Rifle of the Commonwealth (**House Bill 952 from 2009-2010 Session**)

Date: February 23, 2011

I intend to introduce a resolution recognizing the significance of the Pennsylvania Rifle in the history of the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Although few are aware of its history, the Pennsylvania Rifle played a vital role in the development of firearms in the 18th century and is considered the first truly American firearm. Developed by skilled gunsmiths in Northampton and Lancaster counties, the Pennsylvania Rifle was a long-barreled rifle that deviated from any other type of firearm in existence. It was lauded not only for its exceptional accuracy and range, but also for its unique beauty and craftsmanship.

Upon its development, the Pennsylvania Rifle was widely used by frontiersmen during the American fur trade and was an important tool of survival as our ancestors traveled west and south to discovered new lands. Given the appreciation for firearms among many Pennsylvanians, I believe that it's time for the Commonwealth to acknowledge the significant heritage of the Pennsylvania Rifle. It is my hope that this resolution will help our citizens to be aware of the substantial role that this rifle has played in the Commonwealth's gunmaking traditions and in the development of America.

Please join me in honoring our great firearm heritage. You may contact my legislative secretary, Lisa Burkholder, at 783-2655, or via email at lburkhol@pahousegop.com.

Previous co-sponsors: Dally, Baker, Barrar, Boyd, Brennan, Clymer, Cohen, D. Costa, Creighton, Cutler, Everett, Fairchild, Fleck, Geist, George, Gillespie, Goodman, Grove, Grucela, Harris, Hennessey, Hess, Hutchinson, Kauffman, Kortz, Kotik, Levdansky, Major, Marshall, Mensch, Millard, Moul, Oberlander, Peifer, Phillips, Pyle, Rapp, Reichley, Scavello, Siproth, Staback, Tallman, True, Turzai and Vulakovich