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House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

DAVE REED
62ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Dave Reed

DATE: February 25, 2011

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation - Former HB 239
Safety Zones for Waterways Trapping

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce former House Bill 239, legislation amending the Pennsylvania Game Code to change to the safety zone distance for trapping within any waterway, watercourse, marsh, pond or dam, from 150 yards to 50 yards, for properly license furtakers. The current 150 yard safety zone for land trapping, and trapping near a school, daycare or playground will be maintained.

Trappers have traditionally provided a valuable service to our Commonwealth in keeping furbearer populations in check. With increasing urban sprawl, more and more homes and businesses are being built on or near waterways that are prolific with wildlife. Under the current restrictions, trappers are not able to get close enough to these areas to help control the balance of nature, leading to overpopulation of animals and their becoming a nuisance, or even a health and safety hazard. This creates a dilemma for both the animals and the landowners. I believe this legislation will effectively address the problem, and be of great benefit to trappers, wildlife and landowners alike.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Cheryl Griffith at 717-705-7173 or via email at cgriffit@pahousegop.com.

PREVIOUS COSPONSORS: EVERETT, HENNESSEY, HUTCHINSON, M. KELLER, MURT, RAPP, REICHLEY, ROCK, SCAVELLO, AND SONNEY.

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