

**KAREN BOBACK, MEMBER
117TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

DISTRICT OFFICES:
5315 MAIN ROAD
PO BOX 333
SWEET VALLEY, PA 18656
PHONE: (570) 477-3752
FAX: (570) 477-3468

6 CROSS COUNTRY COMPLEX
TUNKHANNOCK, PA 18657
PHONE: (570) 836-4777
FAX: (570) 836-4772

7844 BLUE RIDGE TRAIL
MOUNTAIN TOP, PA 18707
PHONE: (570) 868-7780
FAX: (570) 868-4658



House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Email: kboback@pahousegop.com
Web: RepBoback.com
TOLLFREE: 1(800)278-3930



HARRISBURG OFFICE:
141-B EAST WING
PO BOX 202117
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2117
PHONE: (717) 787-1117
FAX: (717) 705-1889

COMMITTEES
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February 24, 2011

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation - Provides for Erosion & Sedimentation
Agreements Between DEP and County
Conservation Districts

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Karen Boback
Room 141-B, East Wing

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that will direct the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a "cooperative process" for the review of erosion and sedimentation permit applications that includes the involvement of our County Conservation Districts.

Our county conservation districts were created with the passage of Act 217 of 1945, also known as the "Conservation District Law. This act designated our conservation districts as a primary local government unit responsible for the conservation of natural resources in this Commonwealth and to be responsible for implementing programs, projects and activities to quantify, prevent and control nonpoint sources of pollution. Since 1945, our conservation districts have worked in conjunction with landowners, Federal and State Government agencies, counties and local government units to provide for the conservation of soil, water and related resources, control and prevent soil erosion, to assist in the flood control, storm water management, air and water quality, preserve wildlife, and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of Pennsylvania.

However, recent growth in the development of the Marcellus Shale natural gas resources has introduced new challenges for soil and water quality and whereas our county conservation districts have traditionally provided delegated oversight to matters of erosion and sedimentation, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection assumed these responsibilities through internal Department Policy in 2009; effectively eliminating the role of the county

MEMORANDUM

Co-sponsorship of Legislation

February 25, 2011

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conservation districts in this process. Therefore, my proposed legislation will restore the participation of the county conservation districts in erosion and sedimentation permitting.

This legislation is identical to House Bill 2771 that I introduced last session.

Previous Cosponsors:

SCHRODER , BEYER , CALTAGIRONE , DENLINGER , GABLER, GINGRICH , GOODMAN, GROVE, HELM , HENNESSEY , MAJOR , MICOZZIE , MILLARD , MILLER , OBERLANDER, PEIFER , PHILLIPS , QUINN , REED , SEIP , SIPTROTH , S. H. SMITH , SWANGER , WAGNER , YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

I hope you will join me in co-sponsoring this legislation. Please contact Brenda Zablotzky at 787-1117 or via e-mail at bzablots@pahousegop.com to add you name. Thank you for your interest and support.

KB:brz