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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 18, 2011

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Rep. Michael P. McGeehan

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship – Legislation Providing Civil Service Protection for Employees of the Philadelphia Housing Authority

A federal audit released by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Inspector General recently took aim at the spending practices and day-to-day management of the Philadelphia Housing Authority, the nation's fourth largest. Questionable hiring practices, excessive spending on legal fees and instances of professional misconduct were all documented in the audit.

In an effort to correct these inefficiencies, I plan to introduce legislation which would amend the Pennsylvania Housing Authorities Law of 1937 to require Philadelphia's Housing Authority to contract with the State Civil Service Commission to provide a merit system of employment that hires, retains and promotes employees based on their qualifications and ability to perform a job. Under the legislation, all management-level and non-managerial workers would be subject to the rules and protections of the state's Civil Service Commission. Currently, the Philadelphia Housing Authority remains the only state housing authority without a Civil Service Commission contract.

A recent Philadelphia Inquirer op-ed by former Civil Service Commission Chairman, Marwan Kreidle, stated that by "making PHA employees subject to civil-service rules could be an important step toward cleaning up the mess at the agency, and would help them begin to fulfill its real mission: providing good, affordable housing to Philadelphia's most vulnerable."

If you would like to co-sponsor this measure, please respond to this email or contact my research analyst, Eric Nelson, at 772-4029 or via e-mail at enelson@pahouse.net. Thank you.