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HOUSE COMMITTEES:
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HOUSE INSURANCE
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MEMORANDUM

To: To All House Members

From: Representative Marguerite C. Quinn

Date: April 6, 2011

RE: Municipal Planning Code: Local Remedies for Court Decisions

In the near future, I will introduce legislation to amend the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) to provide a local legal remedy to citizens and local officials acting in response to an unfavorable court decision against their zoning ordinance.

My legislation reforms the curative amendment process in the MPC by creating a new procedure for municipalities to follow should an appellate court decision determine a municipal zoning ordinance to be invalid. Under this legislation, the local officials would be given the first opportunity to correct the problem with their zoning ordinance. To do so the municipality would be required to adopt a resolution containing the specific finding regarding the invalidity with the ordinance and would be permitted to enact an amendment to correct any problems. Action by local officials with public input would be much more likely to conform to the needs and desires of the local citizens.

This legislation would permit the local community to act in an open and public process to address land use issues rather than be subject to fixes put forth by the courts. I have first-hand experience with this issue since a key court decision on this subject comes from Bedminster Township, a municipality in my legislative district. This proposal was introduced last session in the form of House Bill 842 when it passed the House (134 to 58).

To register your support for this legislation, please contact Teresa Wagner in my office at twagner (à pahousegop.com or 717.772.1413.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.