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## Senate of Pennsylvania

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TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator John C. Rafferty, Jr. 

DATE: May 16, 2011

RE: Co-sponsorship – Green Buildings Legislation

In the very near future, I will be introducing legislation which will require that the design, construction, and renovation of state government buildings and certain school buildings comply with specified energy and environmental building standards.

This legislation will apply to all new major facility projects that are owned or leased by the Commonwealth. This legislation will also apply to new school building construction and renovation projects in rapidly growing school districts only. Rapidly growing school districts, as defined in my legislation, would include districts where the Average Daily Membership has grown over 7.5 percent during a three year period. This bill will require the Department of General Services, in cooperation with DEP, to develop regulations and adopt high-performance building standards. This legislation will apply to any new construction, renovation, and commercial interior tenant fit-out projects in which the building is larger than 5,000 square feet.

The purpose of this legislation is to promote effective energy and environmental standards for buildings in this Commonwealth while at the same time, optimizing energy conservation in the state through proper building construction and design. This legislation would increase the demand for environmentally preferable building materials, improve environmental quality in this Commonwealth by decreasing the discharge of pollutants and would bring public awareness of new technologies that can promote healthier indoor air quality. It would also reduce state and local dependence upon imported sources of energy through buildings that conserve energy and utilize local and renewable energy sources.

If you have any questions or wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Sean Moll by e-mail at [smoll@pasen.gov](mailto:smoll@pasen.gov) or by phone at (717)783-0192 .