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MICHAEL J. STACK
5TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

Tom Teukla

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Senate of Pennsylvania

- SENATE BOX 203005
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3005
TELEPHONE: (717) 787-9608
FAX: (717) 772-2162
 - 12361 ACADEMY ROAD
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19154-1927
TELEPHONE: (215) 281-2539
FAX: (215) 281-2798
 - 8016 BUSTLETON AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19152-2802
TELEPHONE: (215) 695-1020
FAX: (215) 695-1027
- stack@pasenate.com
www.senatorstack.com

TO: All Senators

DATE: June 30, 2011

FROM: Senator Michael J. Stack

SUBJECT: Hydraulic fracturing disclosure co-sponsorship memo

I plan on introducing legislation that would provide full disclosure of the chemicals used during hydraulic fracturing of Marcellus Shale. There are increasing reports, both in the US and globally, that some of the fluids used to release the natural gas reserves are far more harmful than initially realized. While the drilling continues throughout the Commonwealth, the unknown substances that are used in this process put more of our natural resources, as well as our citizens, at risk.

The state of Texas has passed similar legislation as a direct result of testing done on state waterways and lands that surround these reserves. While the natural gas companies continue to drill, there is very little transparency or accountability in how they extract the reserves.

This legislation would call for the creation of an Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board to review these chemicals, as well as stricter enforcement and harsher penalties. The chemicals used during the process will also be available on a publically-accessible website. This bill would also allow special requests for confidentiality of trade secrets between companies under special circumstances.

It is my hope that this bill would provide the neighbors of these drilling areas the safety assurances they deserve. If you would like to be a co-sponsor of this legislation, please call my office at 7-9608.

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ext 3117