

**DAVID G. ARGALL**  
29TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

SCHUYLKILL & PORTIONS OF  
BERKS, CARBON, LEHIGH, MONROE  
& NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES

SENATE BOX 203029  
THE STATE CAPITOL  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3029  
(717) 787-2637  
FAX: (717) 783-8657

HAMBURG	(610) 562-3411
MAHANOY CITY	(570) 773-0891
MONROE COUNTY	(570) 402-1499
POTTSVILLE	(570) 621-3400
SLATINGTON	(610) 760-9805
TAMAQUA	(570) 668-1240

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WEBSITE: [senatorargall.com](http://senatorargall.com)  
EMAIL: [dargall@pasen.gov](mailto:dargall@pasen.gov)  
TOLL FREE: 1-877-327-4255

TO: All Senators  
FROM: Senator Dave Argall   
DATE: August 31, 2011  
SUBJECT: Ban Spot Appeals of Assessments

In the near future I will be introducing legislation that would ban spot appeals of property assessments in Pennsylvania. Some municipalities have used their ability to appeal the assessments of residential properties to such an extent that the practice seems practically indistinguishable from spot reassessment, which is prohibited by law. School districts, in particular, have been very aggressive in the use of this practice.

My legislation will remove a school district's ability to appeal the assessment of a property based solely on the sale of the property. In addition, it will provide a retroactive remedy so that homeowners whose property tax assessments have been increased because of an appeal by a political subdivision could have those assessments reduced to prior levels.

The General Assembly passed two such bills in 2008. Both bills were vetoed by the Governor, despite support from the County Commissioners Association of PA, the PA Association of Realtors, the PA Chamber of Business and Industry and the PA Farm Bureau and others.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Susan Bentzel in my office at 787-2637 or at [sbentzel@pasen.gov](mailto:sbentzel@pasen.gov).