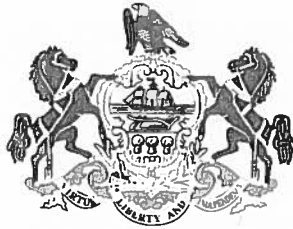


RON MILLER, MEMBER
93rd LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
115 RYAN OFFICE BUILDING
PO BOX 202093
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2093
PHONE: (717) 783-8389
FAX: (717) 705-1850

DISTRICT OFFICE:
6872 SUSQUEHANNA TRAIL SOUTH
PO BOX 277
JACOBUS, PENNSYLVANIA 17407-0277
PHONE: (717) 428-9889
FAX: (717) 771-1035

E-MAIL: rmiller@pahousegop.com
Web: RepMiller.com



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

APPOINTMENTS

CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Rep. Ron Miller *RM*
DATE: October 26, 2011
RE: Proposed Legislation - **Agricultural Conservation Easements**

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation to amend the Agricultural Area Security Law. The current agricultural conservation easement regulations require each preserved farm to be physically inspected once per year by the county program administrator. This inspection is designed to identify whether any violations of the deed of easement have occurred and if the required conservation plan is being followed. The program administrator is also required to send written notice by certified mail of when an inspection shall occur, and to send inspection reports by certified mail.

Since the statewide program began in the late 1980s, many counties have hundreds of farms preserved and limited staff to conduct inspections. Technology has also evolved where aerial photographs may be used to help identify possible violations. Notice of inspections and arrangements for the same can be made more informally than by certified mail.

My legislation will require an inspection at least every two years, and will eliminate some of the burdensome notification and reporting requirements. It also abrogates the appropriate sections of regulation. The legislation retains the right of an unannounced inspection if there is reason to believe an easement is being violated.

If you wish to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Dawn Wolfe at 783-8389 or dwolfe@pahousegop.com. Thank you.