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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

TO: Democratic and Republican House Members

FROM: Representative Bryan Barbin 

DATE: October 31, 2011

RE: Johnstown Flood Tax

The Johnstown Flood Tax was imposed to provide relief to Johnstown after the St. Patrick's Day flood of 1936. Proceeds were used for one year to help Johnstown. The following year proceeds were transferred to the General Fund and have been used for the last ¾ of a century for general purposes. Attached is legislation I will introduce concerning the Johnstown Flood Tax which provides for a phase out of the tax by 2021. While it is never an easy task to move monies back to their original purpose, the addition of \$750,000,000 in surplus allows this phase out to be accomplished while addressing our most pressing needs.

HB 2307 was introduced in last session to eliminate blighted properties in urban areas and provide additional funds as a first step to resolving the state employee and teacher pension crisis. As a result of recent flooding in Eastern Pennsylvania and testimonies at recent Emergency Preparedness hearings, I have also included language that is similar to legislation in California that provides grants without affecting federal disaster assistance. The language to provide grant funding during the phase out period will provide economic stimulus to disaster areas upon application to PEMA.

Cosponsors to the 2010 legislation (HB2307) were as follows:

BARBIN, KORTZ, DALEY, MURPHY, READSHAW, BURNS, HALUSKA, HORNAMAN, MURT, M. O'BRIEN, K. SMITH, SWANGER, THOMAS and SANTARSIERO

If you would like to be added as a cosponsor to this legislation please contact Valerie Hubbard at vhubbard@pahouse.net or (717) 783.1491. Thank you.