

GARY HALUSKA, MEMBER
114 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
P. O. BOX 202073
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2073
(717) 787-3532

323 MELLON AVENUE, SUITE 1
PATTON, PENNSYLVANIA 16668
(814) 674-8939

425 MAIN STREET
PORTAGE, PENNSYLVANIA 15946
(814) 736-7339



COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
GAME AND FISHERIES
VICE CHAIRMAN
TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR, TRAVEL PROMOTION
TRANSPORTATION

House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

December 2, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Representative Gary Haluska

Subject: Transportation of Forest Products

I plan on introducing legislation that would temporarily classify the transport of forest products as local delivery in counties with Marcellus Shale gas development, providing immediate interim relief to this struggling industry while PennDOT develops a more equitable process to apportion damages on bonded roadways in the Marcellus region.

Due to increased gas development, PennDOT and local municipalities have dramatically expanded road postings for weight limits in the Marcellus Shale region. Traditional industries, such as forest product companies find themselves subject to drastically increased costs to comply with these bonding requirements. More importantly, companies that co-bond a road with gas operators are finding themselves exposed to considerable financial risk from the potential liability of being forced to share in the cost of excessive damage caused by gas related traffic.

Pennsylvania's forest products industry is already struggling and the state has lost more than 20,000 forest product jobs during the latest economic downturn. This road posting situation is an additional disincentive for continued lumber, wood product and paper production in a large portion of Pennsylvania, negatively impacting businesses, employees, subcontractors and forest landowners. Both DCNR and the Game Commission report that the issue is impacting the bidders and revenue from their timber sales.

If you are interested in joining me in sponsoring this bill, please contact Marilyn via email at mjuran@pahouse.net

DEC 5 2011