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DEC 07 2011

TO: All Senators
FROM: Senator Dave Argall *DGA*
DATE: December 7, 2011
SUBJECT: Land Bank Legislation

In an effort to enable municipalities to deal more effectively with abandoned and blighted property I will be introducing legislation that will enable any county, city or borough with a population of 10,000 or more to establish a land bank. It will also enable any township, borough or town to form a land bank through an intergovernmental cooperation agreement. This legislation will also establish the framework by which land banks must operate.

Land Banks focus on the conversion of vacant, abandoned and tax-delinquent properties into productive use. They can be pivotal in making property redevelopment more efficient and affordable and for reserving land for targeted purposes under local policy and planning goals.

The language of this bill has been drafted to protect the rights of both the property owners in hardship and the property owners who have to live next to abandoned, blighted, tax delinquent properties.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Susan Bentzel in my office at 7-2637 or at sbentzel@pasen.gov.