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Senate of Pennsylvania

MIKE WAUGH
SENATOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Mike Waugh

Mike

JAN 19 2012

SUBJECT: Request to co-sponsor legislation
Giving Municipalities More Flexibility in Use of Recreation Fees

DATE: January 19, 2012

I am introducing legislation that amends Section 503(11)(vii) of *Act 247* of 1968 (*Municipalities Planning Code*). Under this legislation, a municipality may retain the recreation fees collected from a developer for 10 years, as opposed to the current three-year time limit, under certain circumstances. The municipality may keep the funds for 10 years if it can show that their retention is necessary for the construction of local recreation facilities, and saving for this project must extend beyond the current three-year time limit.

This proposal was brought to my attention by a township manager in York County. He noted that his township has halted development of smaller neighborhood recreational areas, as there were problems with homeowner complaints about activities occurring too close to their homes. In these municipalities, larger, community parks are more appropriate. In most cases, it takes longer than three years for municipalities to accumulate the funds necessary to develop this type of park. This bill will give municipalities more flexibility in the use of these funds, and allow them to move forward by planning recreation projects that better meet the needs and desires of residents.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please call Debbie Clark in my office at 787-3817, or e-mail her at dclark@pasen.gov.