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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members  
From: Representative Tina Davis  
Date: February 7, 2012  
Subject: Co-Sponsor Memo: Transparency in the Purchase of Wetlands Act

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In the near future I will be introducing legislation that would require hearings and public notification 90 days prior to the purchase of land by the Department of General Services for the purpose of preserving or mitigating wetlands as required by Federal law.

Whether you live on the shores of Lake Erie, the banks of one of the Three Rivers, along the Susquehanna River or its tributaries, or are lucky enough to live beside the Delaware River, waterfront development and wetland mitigation should be a primary concern. Recently, the Department of General Services (DGS) purchased a stretch of land in my district that is riverfront property. Federal law requires DGS to purchase wetlands in order to preserve or mitigate them because our Commonwealth is engaged in a number of projects in the Philadelphia region that are displacing wetlands or disturbing the Delaware River's natural habitat. This could be described as a wetlands land swap. To my knowledge, this purchase was undertaken without public comment or a public hearing in the municipality where the land was purchased. I have heard from numerous constituents who were upset that this purchase occurred and were not informed as to what was happening in their backyard.

My legislation would require DGS to hold a hearing 90 days prior to the purchase of land by the Commonwealth and provide public notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality where the purchase is occurring. With these added layers of transparency and notification, we can avoid frustration and difficulties that can occur when we preserve or mitigate wetlands.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. If you'd like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Debbie Brady in my Harrisburg office at (717) 783-4903, or [DBrady@pahouse.net](mailto:DBrady@pahouse.net).