

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Camille "Bud" George
DATE: Feb. 21, 2012
RE: Injection wells legislation

I soon will introduce legislation providing restrictions on the disposal of oil and gas waste into injection wells within the Commonwealth.

My bill would:

- Provide for a two-year moratorium on the drilling of any new wells used for disposal of oil and gas waste;
- Prevent any new wells drilled after Jan. 1 of this year from accepting any oil or gas waste during the two-year moratorium;
- Provide a 2,000-foot setback from private water supplies without written consent of the owner;
- Provide a 5,500-foot setback from public water supplies;
- Prohibit injection wells in floodplains; and
- Provide a 2,000-foot setback for trout streams and High Quality/Exceptional Value waterways.

The legislation is needed to ensure that as new injection wells are proposed in Pennsylvania our water supplies are protected from contamination. The moratorium will not affect existing injection wells that already are receiving oil and gas waste.

Recent events regarding injection wells in Ohio have raised concerns as to the safety of the process. I feel a two-year moratorium is needed so studies can determine whether the process poses a risk to nearby citizens and resources.

If you wish to co-sponsor this bill or have any questions, please contact my office by phone at 717 787-7316 or by e-mail at cgeorge@pahouse.net.