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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

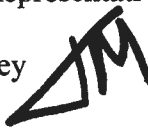
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Representative Tim Mahoney 
DATE: February 27, 2012
SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation- Land Conveyance- Bridge in Ohiopyle State Park

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that will allow for the conveyance of land between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Stewart Township and Fayette County.

My legislation will authorize the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Governor, to grant lands to Stewart Township and Fayette County in exchange of the township granting lands to the Commonwealth in order to expand the lands of the Ohiopyle State Park. The land will be used to exchange Rights-of-Way in order for Fayette County to replace the Meadow Run Bridge No. 82.

The bridge, a 103 year old steel truss bridge located within the Ohiopyle State Park, is in severe need of replacement and continues to weaken. As of November 12, 2007, a bridge inspection reduced the load limit to 3 tons. Replacing the bridge is critical to the safe use and enjoyment of all visitors of Ohiopyle State Park, as many guests of the park routinely traverse the bridge with campers and recreational vehicles.

Located primarily in Fayette County, Ohiopyle State Park encompasses about 19,052 acres of rugged natural beauty and serves as the gateway to the Laurel Mountains. The focal point of the area is the more than 14 miles of the Youghiogheny River Gorge that passes through the heart of the park. The river provides some of the best whitewater boating in the Eastern U.S. as well as spectacular scenery.

Each year, guests of Ohiopyle State Park enjoy excellent whitewater boating, biking, hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, waterslides and picnicking. In the winter, visitors have access to cross country skiing, sledding, and snowmobiling. Also, guests are able to enjoy the natural beauty of the magnificent cascades and waterfalls.

As an avid sportsman, this matter is of extreme importance to me. Authorizing the transfer of land is imperative to the safety and growth of the Ohiopyle State Park. Please help me in facilitating the utilization and enjoyment of one of the greatest state parks in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Esther Wilt Reever at 717-772-2174 or via email at ereever@pahouse.net. Thank you.