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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

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DATE: April 25, 2012

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Martin Causer

SUBJECT: Cosponsoring legislation – Amending the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation amending the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act (Act 325 of 1978) requiring the Environmental Quality Board to establish guidelines for stream clearing activities by persons owning adjacent property or local municipalities. This legislation will provide for a clear and streamlined system of removing stream obstructions.

Too often, we find that the permitting process for clearing obstructions from streams is both costly and cumbersome. And as recent flooding events have illustrated, obstructions can become flood-related hazards that threaten life and property. While some smaller stream clearings can be completed without permits, other minor problems like gravel bars frequently cannot. However, as such projects involve clearing channels and not altering any watercourse or creating any significant impacts on our waterways, my legislation will create a clear and effective process to better manage these problems without an unnecessary, complicated and expensive permitting process.

Finally, this plan includes measures to further expedite stream clearings when such activities are deemed to be an emergency by local, county, or state authorities.

If you wish to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Michele Musgrave at 787-5075 or mmusgrav@pahousegop.com.

MTC/mlm