

JOHN HORNAMAN, MEMBER
3RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

27B EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202003
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2003
(717) 772-2297
FAX: (717) 780-4767

E-MAIL: JHORNAMA@PAHOUSE.NET
WEBSITE: WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/HORNAMAN

2335 WEST 38TH STREET
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16506
(814) 835-2880
FAX: (814) 835-2885



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY
DEMOCRATIC SECRETARY
GAME & FISHERIES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE DEMOCRATIC CHAIR
ON BOROUGHES
VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS

FIREFIGHTERS & EMERGENCY SERVICES
LIFE SCIENCES & BIO-TECHNOLOGY
DEMOCRATIC CO-CHAIR
SPORTSMEN'S
VETERANS

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AIR & WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL & CONSERVATION

MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Representative John Hornaman

Date: July 31, 2012

Subject: Resolution Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to Study the Establishment and Implementation of Fees for the Consumptive Use and Degradation of Water by Large Commercial Users.

In the near future, I plan to introduce a resolution calling on the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the establishment and implementation of fees for the consumptive use and degradation of water by large commercial users.

Pennsylvania is home to more than 83,000 miles of waterways and 4,000 inland lakes and ponds. In addition to these surface waters, the Commonwealth also has an abundance of groundwater. These water resources have been sufficient to meet our residential and commercial needs in the past, but more pressure is now being placed on these resources than at any other time in our history. This growth in water consumption not only includes established industries, such as bottled water companies, but also includes the burgeoning natural gas drilling industry.

The process of drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale formation utilizes large quantities of water. It is estimated that one well can require more than 100,000 gallons of water to drill. While a portion of this water is reused, some of it is delivered to deep-well injection sites. At these sites, the water is forced deep underground and is no longer available to the natural water cycle and human consumption.

With this ever-increasing pressure placed upon our finite water resources, our water supply is bound to feel the strain. Some experts believe the quality and quantity of this resource is already in jeopardy. As such, since Pennsylvanians "own" this water and are not being compensated for its loss, it is my belief that we, as stewards of the Commonwealth, need to implement a system to better manage this irreplaceable resource.

If you would like to co-sponsor this measure, please contact Carla Walker at 717-772-2297 or cwalker@pahouse.net.