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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Representative Patty Kim

Date: March 19, 2015

Subject: City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) Program and former Act 47 Cities

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would amend the City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) program in order to remove the prohibition on participation of a city that has had a receiver appointed under the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act (Act 47 of 1987).

The CRIZ program provides critical opportunities to those third class cities, with a population of at least 30,000, to spur new growth, revive downtowns, and create jobs for residents through the development of vacant, desolate, underutilized or abandoned space.

The current law excludes a city that has had a receiver appointed under Act 47 from eligibility for CRIZ designation. As many of you may recall, the City of Harrisburg in my legislative district, was under state receivership at the time the CRIZ program was established last year. Understandably perhaps, the crafters of the program wished to exclude the city from program eligibility.

However, Harrisburg is no longer under state receivership. Therefore, I believe it is unfair to restrict the city, which faces unique challenges as the state capital, from permanent participation in a program which has the great potential to stimulate the local economy and improve the lives of its residents and visitors alike.

Please join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation.