

AUSTIN DAVIS, MEMBER  
35TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

216 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 202035  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2035  
(717) 783-1018  
FAX: (717) 780-4779

627 LYSLE BOULEVARD  
MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA 15132  
(412) 664-0035  
FAX: (412) 664-0039

3905 MAIN STREET  
MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA 15120  
(412) 476-3046  
FAX: (412) 476-3048



House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
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# MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 16, 2021

TO: All House Members

FROM: State Representative Austin Davis

SUBJECT: **Updating the Municipal Claims and Tax Liens Law (Companion to SB 811)**

Since 2012, nearly 30 land banks across the Commonwealth have worked diligently to facilitate smart, community-based land recycling strategies. While many are thriving, several Allegheny County land banks continue to struggle with the difficult property acquisition process.

Currently, our region utilizes the Second Class City Treasurer's Sale and Collection Act for land recycling, which does not automatically result in a clean title for land bank acquisitions. To remedy this, I will be introducing legislation to amend the Municipal Claims and Tax Liens Law to grant cities and counties of the Second Class the ability to acquire property at a sheriff's sale. This process, currently used in Philadelphia, will enable our local landbanks to acquire the thousands of abandoned and vacant properties burdening our communities more efficiently.

Blight restoration is a crucial aspect of any thriving community, and we must ensure that our Allegheny County land banks have all the tools necessary for successful land recycling.

Thank you for your consideration.