



Legislative UPDATE ON CONSERVATION

From State Senator Richard Alloway II

Dear Friend:

It is vital to ensure that we pass on a cleaner and more vibrant environment to the next generation of Pennsylvanians. During the 2009-10 legislative session, the General Assembly took action on a number of important conservation measures to protect our environment. I have included an update on several of these measures in this legislative update. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have. Your input is always welcomed and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Senator Richard Alloway II



Senate Passes Legislation to Reduce Local Impact of Air Pollution

Pennsylvania's Air Pollution Control Act helps protect the public from harmful smoke, fumes, pollens, gases and other potentially dangerous pollutants. The Senate passed legislation during the 2009-10 legislative session that would help municipalities reduce or eliminate the impact of air pollution when air quality is compromised.

Senate Bill 1250 would allow the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to award at least 25 percent of all civil penalties resulting

from violations of the Air Pollution Control Act to the municipality in which the violation occurred. The municipality could use this funding to eliminate or reduce air pollution and to improve local parks and recreation projects.

DEP estimates that approximately \$2 million in civil penalties are assessed each year for Air Pollution Control Act violations. This measure would provide \$500,000 or more each year to municipalities that are impacted by pollution. While

the House of Representatives did not consider this measure, I am hopeful the General Assembly will approve similar legislation during the 2011-12 legislative session.



New State Law Supports State Recycling Efforts

The General Assembly passed a new law in 2010 to help support the state's recycling efforts and remediate waste tire piles throughout the state.

The Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of 1988 imposed a \$2 fee for every ton of solid municipal waste that enters landfills. The fee generates

approximately \$37 million annually to help support recycling initiatives, including the implementation and operation of municipal recycling programs. Act 24 of 2010 will extend the current \$2/ton fee through 2020 to ensure that the state's Recycling Fund will continue to fund these vital recycling programs.

The new law also allocates \$1.25 million annually over the next four years to fund the cleanup of waste tire piles. Waste tire piles pose significant health and safety risks to residents. This funding will help protect residents from threats such as groundwater contamination, fires and diseases transmitted by mosquitoes.

Other Legislation of Interest

In addition to these measures, the following bills of interest to the conservation community were introduced during the 2009-10 legislative session:

- **Act 15 of 2010** - A new law that makes annual reports on production from oil and gas leases available to the public.
- **Senate Bill 117** - Legislation passed by the Senate that would require the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to submit an annual report on projects and services offered through the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund.
- **Senate Bill 118** - Legislation passed by the Senate that would require all civil penalties for violations of the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act to be deposited in the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.
- **Senate Bill 974** - Legislation approved by the Senate that would maintain existing leases after any decision to close or reduce services to any State Parks.

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