



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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January 6, 2012

Honorable Robert W. Godshall
Consumer Affairs Committee
150 Main Capitol Building
P.O. Box 202053
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2053

Re: House Bill 1855

Dear Mr. Godshall:

Please accept this letter of support for efforts to establish statewide water well construction standards through House Bill 1855. The bill would "provide the statutory authority for DEP to require the Environmental Quality Board to establish statewide private water well construction standards through the adoption of rules and regulations generally consistent with the National Groundwater Association construction standards."

As you may not know, Chester County has operated a water well program since 1983 that includes permitting for private water supplies, minimum construction standards, minimum well yields, licensing requirements for well drillers and pump installers, and water quality requirements for private wells. The permitting requirements cover private water supply wells, monitoring wells, and geothermal wells. The regulations were developed through a collaborative effort between representatives of the health department and private well drillers and installers.

We believe that statewide, minimum water well construction standards are extremely important to preserve and protect the water quality in our Commonwealth. While we support your effort to provide minimum well construction standards, we ask that the regulations be drafted in such a way that they would not supersede our established regulations and well program here in Chester County.

Sincerely,

Margaret C. Rivello, M.B.A.
County Health Director
Chester County Health Department