



# Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs

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January 3, 2012

PA House Consumer Affairs Committee  
Rep. Bob Godshall, Chairman  
150 Main Capitol Bldg.  
PO Box 202053  
Harrisburg, Pa 17120-2053

Dear Chairman Godshall:

I am writing you today at the request of Rep. Ron Miller regarding **House Bill 1855** which has been referred to your committee on Consumer Affairs. PSAB is grateful for the opportunity to comment on this bill which addresses private water well construction standards. We understand that the bill is scheduled for a committee vote on January 10, 2012. In light of this timeframe, we would offer several observations regarding the issue reflecting PSAB's support for sensible standards regulating private water well construction.

In the PSAB 2011 Municipal Policy Statement, under Chapter 7-*Environmental Quality* the association membership asserts "Because of local governments' vital interest in their water supplies, their views must be respected when any decisions are made that will affect their water resources". This interest was demonstrated in 2004 as PSAB had supported loosely aligned legislation dealing with water well driller licensing. That legislation, HB2619 sponsored by Rep. Mary Ann Dailey implemented a program which would license drillers of water wells. While the proposed legislation from Rep. Miller deals with water well construction standards, PSAB believes it is a step worth considering in hopes of guaranteeing quality water resources.

Additionally, HB1855 grants the Environmental Quality Board as well as DEP, the powers of establishing rules and regulations necessary to implement standards. In this case, PSAB would insist on an active review process in developing rules implementing the program. While specific language is absent from the current bill the adoption of such a provision may be something the committee might consider. In all, the association seeks to limit unintended consequences such as any mandates when the language is finalized and enacted into law.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 1855 and as the language moves through the legislative process it is PSAB's hope to preserve our commonwealth's water supply by effective implementation of private water well construction standards. Should you wish to further discuss our perspective on the bill or address any questions this letter may have prompted do not hesitate to contact me Ed Troxell, Director of Government Affairs at 717-236-9526x21 during normal business hours or email at [etroxell@boroughs.org](mailto:etroxell@boroughs.org). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Troxell  
Director, PSAB Government Affairs