PHYLLIS MUNDY, MEMBER

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House of Representatives COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

May 19, 2010

CHAIRMAN. AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES

COMMITTEES

CHILDREN AND YOUTH DEMOCRATIC POLICY **RULES**

RECEIVED

MAY 2 4 2010

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION

Mr. Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman Independent Regulatory Review Commission 333 Market Street 14th Floor Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli:

I write to offer comments on the Environmental Quality Board's (EQB) proposed regulations that provide for total dissolved solids (TDS), new well construction standards, the protection of streamside and riverside buffers, and the strengthening of erosion and sediment rules (IRRC # 2806).

The growth of Marcellus Shale drilling in Pennsylvania will create many opportunities, and raise many questions in the process. As state Representative for the 120th Legislative District – a district that is slowly, but surely, being transformed by the Marcellus Shale drilling – I have been working very closely with my communities, state agencies and colleagues in the General Assembly to ensure the protection of residents and the environment from this loosely regulated yet burgeoning industry. My constituents and I have serious concerns about the potential impact of Marcellus Shale drilling on our land, streams, and especially our drinking water.

To that end, I am pleased to see that the EQB has proposed regulations that will protect waterways from the effects of natural gas drilling wastewater. I believe these wastewater treatment requirements are a good first step in ensuring the protection of water quality in the Commonwealth. I support the approval of these regulations; however, I hope this is only the beginning. In the future, I anticipate the proposal of more stringent regulations that deal with the issue of water contamination. We have been entrusted to act in the best interests of all Pennsylvanians. As such, we must work together and take a proactive approach to protecting our environment, especially when dealing with a new industry like Marcellus Shale drilling, in order to prevent an ecological and economic disaster from occurring. After all, it is less costly and more efficient to enact controls on pollution sources now than it is to ameliorate any negative consequences later.

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Therefore, I fully support the Environmental Quality Board's proposed changes to Chapter 95 of Title 25, Environmental Protection.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

PHYLLIS MUNDY
State Representative
120th Legislative District

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PM:klz

cc: Mr. George Bedwick, Vice Chairman, IRRC

The Honorable Camille "Bud" George, Chairman, House Majority Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Mr. John Hanger, Secretary, PA Department of Environmental Protection