

SANDRA J. MAJOR, MEMBER
111TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

417 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
PO BOX 202111
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2111
PHONE: (717) 783-2910
FAX: (717) 783-2010

16501 STATE ROUTE 706, SUITE 2
MONTROSE, PA 18801
PHONE: (570) 278-3374
FAX: (570) 278-2952

130 NORTH BRIDGE STREET
TUNKHANNOCK, PA 18657
PHONE: (570) 836-5888
FAX: (570) 836-5453



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS CHAIRMAN

POLICY COMMITTEE

BOARD MEMBER, PENNSYLVANIA HIGHER
EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AGENCY (PHEAA)

WEBSITE: WWW.REPMAJOR.COM
E-MAIL: SMAJOR@PAHOUSEGOP.COM

September 24, 2010

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SECRETARY'S OFFICE

John Hanger, Chairman
Environmental Quality Board
Rachel Carson State Office Building
16th Floor, 400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301

SEP 27 2010

**DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Dear Mr. Hanger:

SUBJECT: Comments on Proposed Rulemaking - 40 Pa.B. 4963 (August 28, 2010)

Our economy continues to struggle in the midst of a global recession and insufficient state revenues have forced difficult budget reductions across Pennsylvania state government. Please know I sincerely appreciate your efforts and those of the Department of Environmental Protection to continue to protect our natural and ecological resources given these challenges.

Nevertheless, the Proposed Rulemakings currently before the Environmental Quality Board regarding Noncoal Mining Fees present significant challenges to the bluestone and quarry industries in this Commonwealth. While I certainly understand the hardships faced by your department, it is not prudent to offset budget reductions through these excessive permit application and administrative fee increases at the expense of small businesses who continue to struggle in today's economy.

Further burdening these firms at this time will restrict their ability to compete with similar industries elsewhere; costing needed sustainable jobs in the Commonwealth. Therefore, I urge the Environmental Quality Board to reject these fee increases and protect our Pennsylvania businesses and families.

Thank for considering my thoughts on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra J. Major".

Sandra J. Major
State Representative
111th Legislative District

SJM/ts

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IRRC