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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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To: All Members of the House of Representatives
From: Representative Peter J. Zug *PJZ*
Date: March 25, 1997
Re: Proposed Legislation - Requiring Municipal Level Approval of Sewage Sludge Land - Applications

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation that would require the approval of the local governing body of a municipality prior to the application of sewage sludge on land within the jurisdiction of a municipality.

During the past year, several municipalities and numerous residents in my legislative district have expressed their strong opposition to a permit application for the agricultural utilization of biosolids on land which contained several serious deficiencies that would result in a potential threat to the groundwater quality in the area. Initial efforts by the local governing bodies and residents to demonstrate to the DEP that the proposed sites contain unsuitable soils for the spray irrigation of wastewater effluent, permeable limestone conditions prone to develop sinkholes, were not well received by the department's soil scientists.

Local farming operations increasingly cooperate in the nutrient management planning programs with the Soil Conservation District and local municipal governments and municipal water and wastewater authorities are making consistent efforts and expending increasing funds to reduce and dispose of the detrimental elements and compounds in the soils and groundwater. Therefore, it is appropriate for the local governing body to have the authority to approve such applications.

Please contact Jodi at 7-2868 or through PROFS at JMARSICO if you wish to cosponsor this measure.



Memorandum

Date: March 24, 1997

To: Hon. Peter J. Zug

From: Mark Brown, Legislative Analyst
House Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy (R)

Subject: Cosponsor Letter for Draft Legislation/Municipal Level Approval of
Sewage Sludge - Land Application

Please find attached a suggested draft cosponsor letter for your new legislation utilizing some arguments made by the local governments. Please note that the DEP has informed me that this permit was not issued.

MB/jma

enclosure