

TAKING ON THE TOUGH FIGHTS IN HARRISBURG

Dear Neighbor,

Happy New Year! 2021 was certainly a year full of ups and downs. Together, we continue to grapple with the ongoing pandemic that has changed all of our lives in many ways. Between navigating how to keep our children safe in school, protecting frontline workers and first responders, defending against attacks that threaten the foundation of our democracy, and trying to rebound from a turbulent economy where big corporations made record profits, and people in our communities still live a daily economic struggle, we are all still trying to reestablish stability in many aspects of our lives. Despite the struggle and hardship, our communities have been the consistent glimmer of hope, showing resilience through a number of acts of strength, kindness and compassion, which has reignited many people's faith in the possibilities ahead in 2022. As a new legislator serving during a global pandemic, I want to thank you for giving me renewed hope and faith in humanity. It is truly an honor to represent you in the state Senate.

Last year, our team had over 11,000 legislative conversations with constituents! I place a priority on informing, updating, and educating my constituency about what is happening (or not happening) in Harrisburg. As you will see throughout this newsletter, I have continued to be the loudest voice in the Senate fighting for transparency and accountability in our state government. I ask the tough questions and take on the tough fights, because you, the taxpayer, deserve to be represented by someone who is working hard to demand a people-serving government. You need to have the confidence that your hard-earned dollars are being spent wisely.

My team and I also hosted over 44 constituent outreach events to gather your feedback, listen to your concerns, and provide information on state programs and resources available to you. Much of the legislation I introduce, and the amendments I draft (most in the Senate for the second consecutive year), come from conversations I have with constituents in my district office and while attending events throughout the community. Despite lacking the legislative power available only to the majority party in the House and Senate in Harrisburg, I still fight every day to demand transparency and accountability of our state government.

I am sure 2022 will be another busy year, and I look forward to working on the issues and projects that matter most to you. As always, I invite you to call my office or send a message through the contact form on our website. Lastly, sign-up for my weekly e-newsletter, and like and follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@SenatorMuth), where we post important updates daily. It is an honor to serve the people of Berks, Chester, and Montgomery Counties, and I will continue to advocate for your best interests in Harrisburg. Cheers to a 2022 full of transformative change to finally make our state government work for the people, not special interests!



In service,


Senator Katie Muth

PROTECTING PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

■ Go100PA: A Renewable Future for PA



We have a responsibility to take action to protect the quality of life, not just for ourselves, but for future generations – and to do that we need to both stop the degradation of our environment now and implement policies that build a safer, greener future. Go100PA is a critical step in stopping further harm from global warming caused by fossil fuel industry pollution and ensuring a safe and sustainable future for Pennsylvania. Urgent action is needed NOW.

Currently, 9 states representing more than 85 million people have passed similar policies, including New York, Illinois, Oregon, and Virginia. The vast majority of PA voters are concerned about air and water pollution.

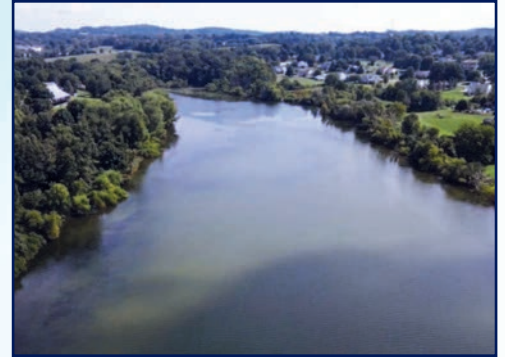
Along with Sen. Amanda Cappelletti and Rep. Christopher Rabb, we have reintroduced legislation in both the Senate and House (SB872 & HB100) to get PA on track to transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050.

The science is clear, human caused climate change is happening and the consequences of our inaction will be devastating. We must take bold and divisive action now to ensure that future generations do not face a planet without clean air or water. We already have the necessary tools to create a healthier cleaner world and this legislation provides the framework to provide a path toward a better tomorrow. By investing in renewable energy, we have an opportunity to avoid the most severe aspects of climate change by ensuring our workforce has the necessary guidance to build the infrastructure we need now.

For more information and to learn more about Go100PA and our legislation, visit go100pa.com.

■ Corporate polluters continue to run our state government: Marsh Creek Lake contamination & Mariner East Pipeline Project

Since August 10, 2020, between 21-28k gallons of drilling fluid has sat on the lakebed of the Marsh Creek Reservoir following a drilling incident caused by an Energy Transfer/ Sunoco spill during the construction of the Mariner East Pipeline in Chester County. This is completely unacceptable. Marsh Creek State Park is visited by over one million Pennsylvanians a year and our Park Rangers have seen these numbers grow exponentially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



On October 5th, Attorney General Josh Shapiro charged Energy Transfer and its subsidiary Sunoco Pipeline L.P., with 48 comprehensive criminal charges for illegal behavior related to the construction of the Mariner East 2 pipeline project. The charges include one felony charge for willfully and consistently failing to report drilling fluid releases to DEP.

The criminal charges presented by Attorney General Shapiro against Energy Transfer have long been one of the worst kept secrets in Pennsylvania. Impacted residents in communities across this state have known of and experienced the harm caused by Energy Transfer. Corporate polluters have been given hundreds of permits to operate in our state despite destroying our environment, contaminating our drinking water, and ruining the property and health of Pennsylvania families. While I appreciate the criminal charges brought against another negligent extraction company, it still does not provide justice for any impacted families or the communities in which they live.

I am disappointed that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has not yet been held accountable for systematic failures. DEP's reluctance to revoke permits from corporate polluters charged with felony crimes against our environment is egregious. The DEP continues to permit environmentally harmful projects across the Commonwealth with no regard for public health or safe drinking water – all while knowing they do not have enough staff to provide the necessary oversight and accountability to ensure the projects are abiding by all regulations and allow industry to break the law. Another grand jury report resulted in more than a dozen felony charges against Cabot – yet 109 permits, including 92 new permit applications, issued to Cabot have been approved by DEP since criminal charges were announced in June 2020.

Simply put, we must hold Sunoco responsible for the harm that has been caused and I have demanded that DEP remediates this damage and takes the appropriate regulatory actions immediately. This pipeline should have never been permitted this close to the Marsh Creek State Park and while questions remain unanswered regarding the approval of these permits, our state agencies must uphold the regulatory and statutory requirements of our Commonwealth and ensure Marsh Creek Reservoir is completely restored to the original, pristine state. We cannot compromise people's health and wellbeing any longer in Pennsylvania for the sake of greedy corporations.

I will continue to inform and update my constituents as this situation develops and will not stop until the Marsh Creek Reservoir is once again the community resource we all cherish. Industry and corporations should never receive a pass when they pollute, and it is incumbent of our regulators to fully hold corporate polluters accountable. For more information about Marsh Creek Lake and other environmental issues, visit www.senatormuth.com/environment.

Follow us on social media for the latest updates on legislation, community events and more!

THE FIGHT TO PROTECT PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONTINUES

■ Closing the Hazardous Waste Loophole

In late September, the Senate Democratic Policy Committee held a hearing on legislation in the House and Senate that would close the hazardous waste loopholes in Pennsylvania state law. The hearing revealed and emphasized the public health and environmental dangers caused by the improper disposal of radioactive waste from the oil and gas industry and continued failures by state and federal regulators to protect public health and Pennsylvania's natural resources.

I have been working with State Rep. Sara Innamorato on legislation – Senate Bills 644, 645 and 646 and House Bills 1354, 1353 and 1355 – that would close the hazardous waste loopholes. The bills would repeal the 30-year-old exemption from testing hazardous waste for the gas and oil industry and update the Solid Waste Management Act to hold the oil and gas industry to the same waste regulations as other industries and would keep harmful radioactive toxins out of Pennsylvania's air, groundwater, waterways and drinking water supplies across the state.

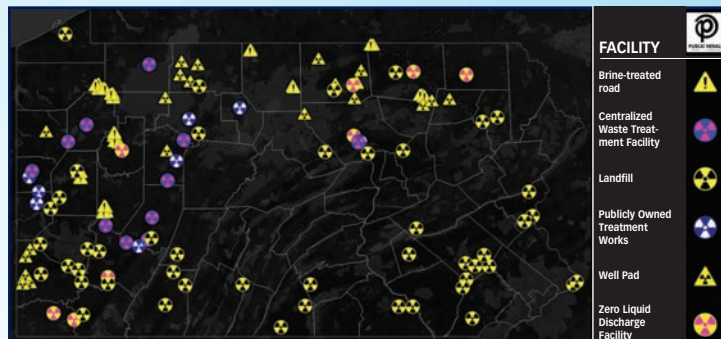
Legislation that addresses environmental hazards, radioactive

waste and the residual damage caused by fracking are not radical ideas – they are commonsense initiatives that prioritize public health and our environment over

companies who make billions of dollars from our communities' natural resources and taxpayer funded subsidies, raking in the profits and socializing the risk.

If those that are elected to serve the public don't take action on this urgent health emergency that Pennsylvania families are facing due to the extraction industry and the hazardous waste loophole, then they're failing to serve the public. Evidence and data on this harm has existed for decades.

I have witnessed firsthand the hardships and struggles that Pennsylvanians have been dealing with since the drilling industry has descended upon our Commonwealth. Residents of Dimock Township – in Susquehanna County in Northeastern Pennsylvania – have been without



Read full story of radioactive waste locations in PA at PublicHerald.org/secret

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clean water for over a decade. And they are not alone as this situation is occurring throughout Pennsylvania as fracking operations contaminate once pristine aquifers, rendering the water undrinkable

While many in the 44th Senate District may not be able to locate Dimock Township on a map, our water systems are interconnected. Damage done in Northeast Pennsylvania will eventually impact the quality of our water here in the Southeast. The fact that our Pennsylvania neighbors are suffering without clean water should be a priority for all members of the General Assembly. As your State Senator, I will always fight for the environmental right of all Pennsylvanians, especially when it comes to clean and safe drinking water.

■ Fracking Package

Earlier this year, I joined Attorney General Josh Shapiro and several of my colleagues in the Senate, to announce a comprehensive legislative package aimed at increasing transparency, oversight and the overall safe management of gas drilling operations in the fracking industry. For far too long, international corporations have been given a pass by our state regulatory agencies – who continue to allow companies to pollute our air, contaminate our water, exploit our environmental resources, and harm our public health. It is past time that we update our regulations to protect



Pennsylvania families and hold corporations accountable. This package of commonsense legislation was developed with significant stakeholder feedback and drafted with a focus on ending the free pass so

many in the oil and gas industry have exploited for decades.

To view the recommendations from the AG Report, visit tinyurl.com/AGFrackingReport.

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CARING FOR OUR VETERANS

VETERANS EXPO



On October 30th, I hosted over 200 veterans from SD44 at our second Veterans Expo at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center.

It was a pleasure to meet and talk to so many local veterans that have served our country at home and abroad. We cannot thank our veterans enough for their sacrifices, their bravery, and their service.

Our event featured more than 35 local and statewide veterans' organizations and service providers that talked with our veterans to ensure that they are accessing the services and benefits available to them and their families. Any special event is only as good as the people who make it happen. Thank you to my incredible team for tirelessly working to ensure the event was a success, and to the broad spectrum of agencies and organizations that have selflessly dedicated time and resources to share information about programs and services that they offer our veterans.

Since taking office, I have met with countless veterans and veterans' organizations both in SD44 and across the Commonwealth. Your stories, your sacrifices and your needs are why it is important to hold our annual Veterans Expo to provide information on resources, services, and assistance available to Pennsylvania veterans and their families.

KOREAN AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE MEDALS



I was honored to present four veterans and their families with the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medals for their service to our country in the Korean War at a Veterans Day event at Tel Hai Retirement Community in Honey Brook.

The veterans that were honored with the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal were First Lieutenant Reverend Herb Davis who served in the National Guard in Korea; and Captain Wilbert Gaul who served in both World War II and the Korean War in the Marine Reserve. Medals were also presented posthumously to the families of Second Lieutenant Philip Christian Pfaff who served in the 696th Ordnance Ammunition Company in the US Army in Korea; and Sergeant Louis Horn who served with the 2nd Marine Division in the Korean War.

Our veterans across the Commonwealth and across the country deserve all of our gratitude and thanks not only today on Veterans Day – but every day for their bravery, their service and their sacrifices.

My office assisted the veterans and their families in applying for the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal which is an expression of appreciation from the Korean government to United States service men and women who served in the Korean War.

Women Veterans Roundtable

As chairs of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, Senator Pat Stefano and I hosted a Women Veterans Roundtable at Fort Indiantown Gap on November 1.

Our impressive panel of women veterans from across the Commonwealth discussed how their military experience helped prepare them to succeed professionally, and highlighted their many contributions and ongoing efforts to improve Pennsylvania.

Thank you to all of the brilliant, trailblazing women who participated in the panel and for their service to our country and now the Commonwealth. To watch the entire Women Veterans Roundtable and video from various other events and hearings, visit www.SenatorMuth.com/video.



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While I have only been on the Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) Board as a Trustee since February 2021, I have been consistently denied access to documents and information regarding PSERS investments, practices, and management, which trustees have the right to review under the law. At first this was just frustrating, but once news

■ Standing Up for Transparency and Accountability

broke that the Department of Justice, and recently the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) was investigating PSERS, it became incredibly concerning.

I demand transparency, especially when it comes to the use of public money. When we are talking about allocating investments on such a grand scale, it is of the utmost importance that we are crystal clear on how decisions are being made.

Following months of denied requests for relevant information, I hired national transparency law expert Terry Mutchler, a partner at the offices of Obermayer, Redmann, Maxwell, and Hippel, to provide legal guidance and advice to obtain documents required to perform my duties on the PSERS Board.

As a trustee responsible for overseeing the financial security of hardworking teachers and school employees, I cannot do my job if I am being blocked at every turn. The teachers, school employees, and taxpayers of Pennsylvania should know how each and every penny of their money is being invested. If I, as a PSERS Trustee, am having difficulty acquiring basic documentation about the fund and various investments and practices, what hope does the public have to know how their money is being managed or invested?

For more information about my role on the PSERS board and to follow my fight to protect the retirement funds of public school employees across the Commonwealth, please visit www.senatormuth.com/psers/.



■ Policy Committee Updates

Since becoming the Chair of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee at the beginning of 2021, our Committee has hosted 27 hearings across the Commonwealth and virtually on various important state issues, regional issues and matters of public policy.

Here is a look at some of the topics and bills we discussed:

- Senate Bill 716 which would make it unlawful for an employer to refuse an employee's request for a reasonable accommodation. Currently, twelve states have passed legislation requiring employers to provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant employees.
- Issues related to worker misclassification which impacts a whole segment of our workforce that deserves to be protected and paid fairly by their employers. This practice is another example of corporate greed – employers that are prioritizing profits over workers.
- Reforms that would improve the quality of care, the work conditions, and staff pay at Pennsylvania's nursing homes.
- Legislation to end solitary confinement in Pennsylvania and ensure that incarcerated individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

Full video and all submitted testimony from all 27 of our Senate Democratic Policy Committee are always available at SenatorMuth.com/Policy. If you have an idea or an issue that you would like our Committee to explore, fill out our information form also at SenatorMuth.com/policy.



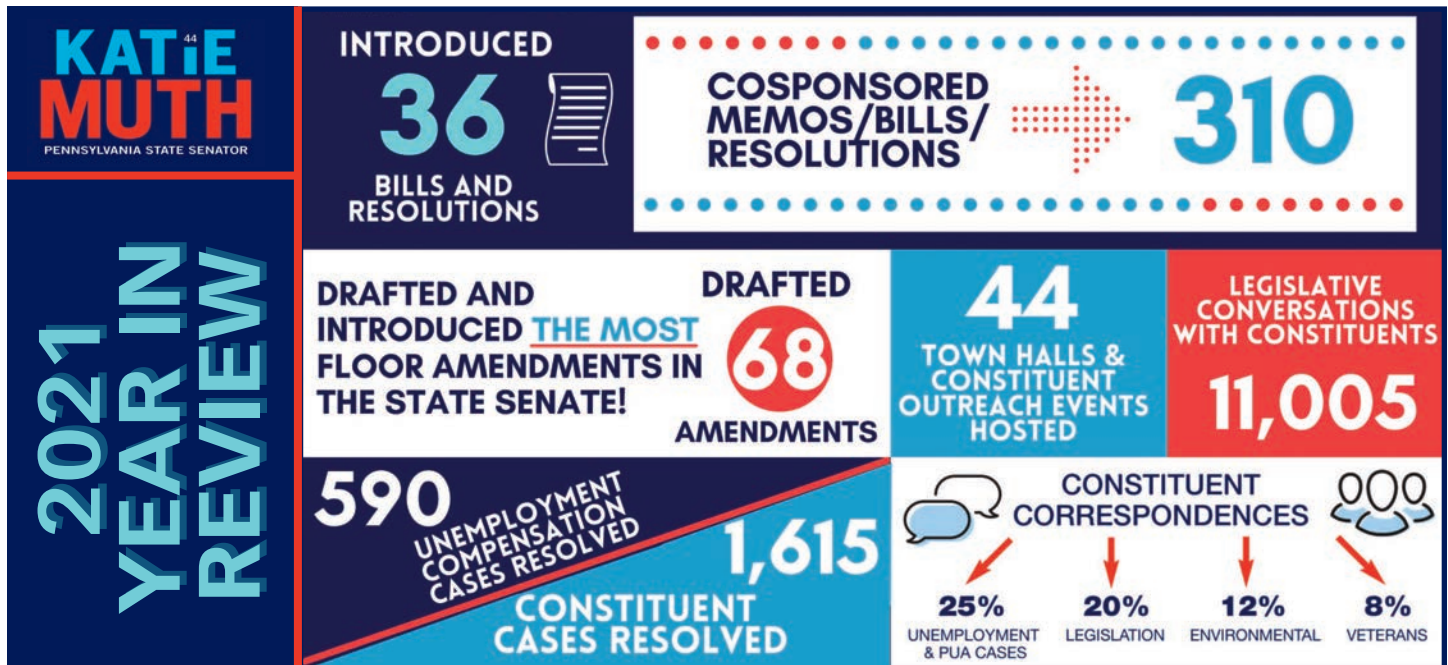
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