

E-mail dated 4/14/15

Sen. Bray,

Sen. Mazza asked me to inform you about a few provisions in the transportation bill, H.488, which is on today's notice calendar, and will be referred to Senate Finance and Senate Appropriations.

(1) **Sec. 18** adds an exemption to the law governing potable water supply and wastewater system permits, in order to exempt from permitting requirements the subdivision of property for an authorized highway or transportation project.

Under an existing ANR rule, subdivisions arising from highway projects are already exempt from the potable water supply/wastewater system permitting law if the highway project is the subject of a condemnation process. In many cases, the Agency and municipalities avoid the need to initiate condemnation proceedings by offering property owners fair compensation for their property. This section expands upon the existing exemption in the ANR rule by:

- (1) extending the exemption to transportation projects other than highway projects; and
- (2) allowing the exemption to apply regardless of whether a formal condemnation process has been initiated.

(2) **Sec. 20** amends the Transportation Alternatives Grant Program to create a \$1.1 million set-aside for municipal environmental mitigation projects related to stormwater and highways. This set-aside will help municipalities to start addressing water quality issues prior to the expected mandatory implementation of general permits governing stormwater runoff generated by town highways.

(3) **Sec. 21** requires that monies disbursed from the Clean Water Fund for municipalities for environmental mitigation projects related to stormwater and highways shall be administered by the Agency through the Agency's Municipal Mitigation Grant Program. Grants to municipalities under the Program require a 20% local match.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Helena

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