



Citizens Advisory Council

to the Department of Environmental Protection

P.O. Box 8459 • Rachel Carson State Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8459 • 717-787-8171 • Fax 717-705-4980

May 22, 2019

Dear Representative Briggs and Co-Sponsors:

On behalf of the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), I am writing regarding HB 1057, the bill you introduced that would require radon testing and reporting in public schools. CAC applauds your efforts to address this serious public health issue that is present across our Commonwealth.

First, CAC would like to emphasize that DEP's radon certification regulations exempt local government and school employees from radon certification requirements when those employees are testing for radon in buildings owned by the local government or school. *See* 25 Pa. Code § 240.2(6)(i)-(iii). This exemption will help alleviate financial concerns that may be associated with mandated radon testing and reporting.

Second, CAC's Legislative Committee reviewed this bill in light of our experience working with DEP's Radiation Protection Program on radon issues and offers the following comments as suggestions to enhance to workability of this program:

Section 223.1—Radon Report Contents

CAC suggests that each radon report be required to include a description of short- and long-term radon mitigation efforts that the school will be pursuing if a radon test result is higher than 4 picocuries per liter. Including such a description would give parents and guardians immediate access to information about how the school district will be protecting the health and welfare of their children and will help assuage potential concern over radon exposure in school.

Section 787(a)(1)—Testing Deadline for Existing Buildings

Understanding that an implementation date had to be part of the bill, CAC believes that school districts should be given a longer time to comply with testing existing buildings. The logistics of coordinating this type of effort will require significant planning. CAC suggests that the deadline be changed to at least six months from the effective date of the legislation to give school officials enough time to properly implement a testing program.

Allegheny County
Cynthia Carrow
John J. Walliser, Esq

Bedford County
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Cumberland County
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Terry L. Dayton

Indiana County
John St. Clair

Philadelphia County
David Dunphy
Jerome Shabazz

Tioga County
Thaddeus K. Stevens

Washington County
Mark Caskey

Thank you for taking the time to consider CAC's suggestions and for pursuing a safer educational environment for children in this Commonwealth. CAC is happy to lend its assistance in any way as this bill makes its way through the legislative process. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further please contact our Executive Director, Keith J. Salador, by phone at 717-787-8171 or by email at ksalador@pa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerome Shabazz", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jerome Shabazz
Chair
Citizens Advisory Council