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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Stephens Secures State Funding to Remove All Detectable PFCs
From Public Water in Horsham**

HARRISBURG— Rep. Todd Stephens (R-Montgomery) announced that the new state budget contains \$10 million for the necessary infrastructure, such as carbon filters, to remove perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) from the public water supply in Horsham.

After months of working together to address this critical issue, Stephens, with the support of Gov. Tom Wolf, was able to place \$10 million in grant funding for the filters in a bill that passed as part of the state budget process. These filters will remove all detectable levels of the two contaminants- perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)-- found in the public water system.

“This funding will provide the long-term solution necessary to ensure Horsham residents have safe drinking water,” Stephens said. “I want to thank Governor Wolf, Horsham Township Council and the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority for working with me to protect families in Horsham Township.”

“Since the Environmental Protection Agency announced new public health standards for PFCs found in drinking water, Rep. Stephens and I have been working together to address the issues stemming from the PFOS/PFOA water contamination resulting from prior firefighting training activities at the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station in Horsham Township,” explained Wolf. “The funding we’ve provided will help ensure the Horsham Township public water supply is ultimately free and clear of any detectable levels of these contaminants and give the residents of Horsham Township the peace of mind they deserve. I thank Rep. Stephens for his leadership on this issue on behalf of our shared constituents in Horsham Township.”

Earlier this year, upon learning the EPA no longer believed their previous standards were appropriate, Stephens called for the federal government to install carbon filters on public water wells serving Horsham Township to remove all detectable levels of the contaminants. He has since been joined by Gov. Wolf, U.S. Sens. Bob Casey and Pat Toomey; and Congressmen Brendan Boyle, Patrick Meehan and Mike Fitzpatrick in calling for more action from the federal government.

Horsham Council has adopted a short-term solution to eliminate all detectable levels of contaminants from the public water supply and requested Stephens seek state funding for a long-term solution to the water issues facing the township. Horsham Council and the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority developed cost estimates which Stephens presented to the Governor's Office and his leaders negotiating the state budget.

"I want to thank Rep. Stephens and Gov. Wolf for working with us on this critical issue," said Deb Tustin, Horsham Council President. "This funding will help us achieve our goal of removing all detectable levels of these contaminants from our water in Horsham Township."

Twice in two years the federal government informed the people of Horsham that their public well water exceeded acceptable levels of PFOA and PFOS contaminants forcing the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority to twice take public water wells offline to remain compliant with federal standards. Both chemicals have been linked to several health issues, including cancer.

"We have no idea how long and to what extent we have been exposed to these chemicals," Stephens said. "That's why it's critical we do all we can to remove all detectable levels of these contaminants from the water flowing into our homes and being consumed by families."

The grant money will be provided to Horsham through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (Pennvest), which is dedicated to funding systems for providing clean drinking water to the Commonwealth.