



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA House Environmental and Natural Resource Protection Committee

FROM: Alex Halper, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs

DATE: April 27, 2026

RE: **PA Chamber memo: Oppose H.B. 2178 - Additional Spill Notification**

The PA Chamber urges you to oppose H.B. 2178, requiring additional spill notifications, which the Committee is scheduled to consider this week.

The intent of this bill – ensuring timely and effective response to hazardous substance spills—is already thoroughly governed by existing state and federal laws. Pennsylvania employers currently operate under a comprehensive framework that, in addition to what is already provided for in the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA), includes the Clean Streams Law, Solid Waste Management Act, Act 2 of 1995, as well as multiple federal statutes. This bill duplicates and expands existing requirements, adding complexity and uncertainty without meaningfully improving environmental protection.

We are also concerned that the bill imposes a vague and undefined “constitutional standard,” departing from Pennsylvania’s established, science based Act 2 standards that already protect human health and the environment. This lack of clarity exposed businesses to open ended liability and unpredictable enforcement, discouraging redevelopment and investment while undermining regulatory certainty.

Finally, the legislation significantly increases legal liability exposure for businesses in Pennsylvania. The inclusion of treble damages diverges from the normal standard in environmental remediation statutes, which traditionally require an organization to pay the actual costs associated with response, remediation, and oversight. The legislation also removes longstanding liability protections after a contamination is properly remediated, leaving businesses with an open-ended threat of litigation.

Thank you for considering our views on this matter. Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-645-8730 with questions or to discuss.

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