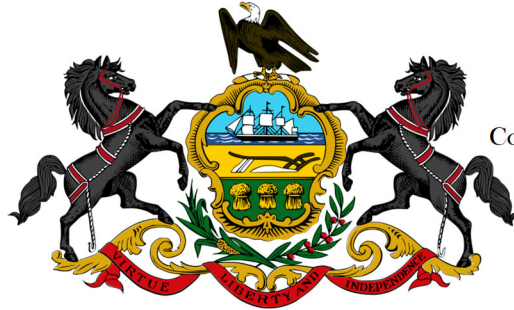


**NATALIE MIHALEK, MEMBER**  
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**House of Representatives**  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

**COMMITTEES:**  
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Dear Leader Bradford:

I am writing to respectfully request that you call up House Bill 961 for an immediate vote. This bill will save lives.

In 2022, Jon Gentile, a Bethel Park School District teacher and Bucks County native, was kayaking on the Delaware River with his father. Jon was pulled under water by an unmarked low head dam and did not survive. Since this incident, there have been several other low head dam accidents across the Commonwealth, revealing that Pennsylvania unfortunately leads the nation in low head dam deaths. These are dangerous, drowning machines and are often invisible to boaters and swimmers. Our existing laws have proven to be inadequate to protect the people of Pennsylvania.

HB 961 was drafted in consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, American Rivers, the American Society for Civil Engineers and staff from both the House Democrat Caucus and the House Republican Caucus. The bill passed unanimously out of committee and has no opposition.

After nearly eight years as a member of the House, I know as well as anyone that many topics in Harrisburg are exclusively partisan and often, a House majority leader is tasked with prioritizing that partisanship. This proposal to better mark high risk dams is not partisan. I assure you, a grieving family whose loved one drowned could care little about party affiliation and what you often call "demagoguery."

On several occasions during your tenure as majority leader, you have touted ideas and proposals as bipartisan wins, which I have done as well. In fact, it is quite often I support legislative efforts because of their support by my constituents, regardless of whether they fit neatly into any political box. I am asking you to set aside partisan politics and bring this bill up for a vote.

Rather than risk another loss of life, I ask you to please call the bill up for an immediate vote or take the proposal within House Bill 961 and introduce it in your name or that of a member on your side of the aisle. Whichever path you choose, let's get this done. I do not need credit for my work. I need to know that I have done everything in my power to get this across the finish line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Natalie Mihalek".

Natalie Mihalek  
State Representative  
40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District