



Senate of Pennsylvania

July 15, 2008

The Honorable H. William DeWeese
Democratic Leader
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
110 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Reform Legislation

Dear Representative DeWeese:

The events of July 10 severely threaten to further erode public confidence in the General Assembly. As the House considers its agenda for the fall, we write to remind you of numerous reform-focused bills languishing in the House – some for more than one year. We again urge you to take immediate action on the following seven bills, all of which passed the Senate unanimously.

Senate Bill 986 would prohibit bonuses for Commonwealth employees. SB 986 passed the Senate 48 to 0 on October 17 of last year. It has been in the House State Government Committee since October 18, 2007.

Senate Bill 1499 would make much-needed changes regarding state vehicle use. It would limit take-home vehicles to employees who drive 1,200 miles a month or more on official business, not including commuting to and from work. SB 1499 also would require employees to maintain mileage logs that would be posted online. This bill passed the Senate 50 to 0 on June 30, 2008, and is now in the House State Government Committee.

Senate Bill 729, which would require governmental salary information to be posted online, passed the Senate 49 to 0 on May 22, 2007. It has been in the House State Government Committee since June 5 of last year.

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Senate Bill 467 would strengthen the penalties for violating Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law. It passed the Senate 48 to 0 on May 7, 2007. SB 467 has been in the House State Government Committee ever since.

Senate Bill 903, the Openness in Consulting Contracts Act, would prohibit any state agency from entering into a consulting contract unless the contract is reviewed by the Attorney General for legality and conflict of interest, or is opened up to public competitive bidding. SB 903, which passed the Senate 50 to 0 on July 2, 2008, has not yet been referred to a House committee.

Senate Bill 1201 would make more information available on the Internet related to the use of state planes. SB 1201 passed the Senate 50 to 0 on Feb. 6, 2008. It is now before the House Transportation Committee.

Senate Bill 1015, the Taxpayer-Funded Advertising Transparency Act, would allow the public to know when their money is being spent on advertising. After passing the Senate 49 to 0 on June 26, 2008, SB 1015 was referred to the House State Government Committee.

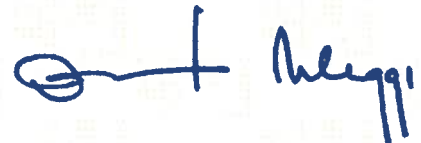
In addition, the Senate unanimously adopted **Senate Resolution 153** on July 9, 2007, prohibiting the use of Senate funds for any robo-calls. We urge the House to consider adopting a similar resolution.

Your leadership is necessary if members of the House are to have the opportunity to vote on these bills this fall. If this does not happen, as you know, the process will have to restart in the new session beginning in January 2009. There is no excuse for such a delay.

Sincerely,



Joe Scarnati
President Pro Tempore



Dominic Pileggi
Majority Leader

cc: All Senators