



Berks County Intermediate Unit
An Educational Service Agency

May 11, 2001

The Honorable Peter J. Zug
House of Representatives/State Capitol
House P. O. Box 202020
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Zug:

Thank you for introducing House Resolution 162 which directs the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study on how to best maximize the capability of the Commonwealth's intermediate units to provide effective, cost-efficient and coordinated services to local school districts and other governmental agencies. We at the Berks County Intermediate Unit are eager to help in this effort. Please feel free to contact me for any assistance you may need as the study progresses. I would be more than happy to testify in regard to the many cost-saving services that the BCIU is providing to our school districts. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the BCIU 2000-2001 Annual Report.

We appreciate your support and look forward to be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Robert Hohl', written over a horizontal line.

K. Robert Hohl, Ed.D.
Executive Director

KRH/ngh

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
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MYERSTOWN, PA 17067
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ELIZABETHVILLE, PA 17023
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

May 31, 2001

*Sent from
D.O.*

Dr. Donna Durno
Allegheny Intermediate Unit
1400 Penn Avenue
Suite 201
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4332

Dear Dr. Durno:

Thank you for writing and expressing your support for House Resolution 162. I appreciate hearing from you on this very important matter.

House Resolution 162 would instruct the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study on how to best maximize the capabilities of the intermediate units in Pennsylvania to provide effective, cost efficient and coordinated services to local school districts and other governmental agencies. This study is important because it would uncover areas where intermediate units could provide beneficial services to school districts.

The Allegheny Intermediate Unit's initiatives of providing a math curriculum to surrounding school districts and building an electricity consortium to provide lower cost electricity to schools are examples of valuable services that can be provided by intermediate units. Examples of services being supplied by other intermediate units are professional development activities for staff, technology buying consortiums, and specialized education programs for disabled students. These services represent a savings of resources and funds for school districts.

This study would collect and identify the most exemplary and beneficial services and programs offered by intermediate units and make suggestions to replicate these services and programs throughout the Commonwealth.

Your views on this study are especially important because the support of the intermediate units would be critical to the success of the study. Hopefully, this resolution will garner the support of the House of Representatives and this very important study can be conducted for the benefit of all school districts and intermediate units in the Commonwealth.



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Dr. Donna Durno
May 31, 2001

Again, thank you for writing to me and conveying your thoughts. Should you have any additional questions on this issue or any others, please do not hesitate to call on me at any time.

Very truly yours,

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER
102nd Legislative District

PJZ:fke



MAY 14 2001

May 11, 2001

The Honorable Peter J. Zug
Pa House of Representatives
112 W. Main Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

Dear Representative Zug:

I am writing to express my appreciation for your co-sponsorship of House Resolution 162. It is my belief that intermediate units are under-utilized by the school districts. We are in an excellent position to help them become both more effective and more efficient.

For instance in this past year, our IU developed a math curriculum framework in alignment with the PA Standards so that all 42 of our districts didn't have to do that individually. They seem to appreciate it very much. Another example is savings in excess of four million dollars over the last five years in our electricity consortium, which involves all 42 of our districts, plus 106 other districts in Western Pennsylvania and 48 districts in Ohio.

Having this study should surface these kinds of savings and services in all of the intermediate units. If we can be of any assistance to you in this effort, please don't hesitate to call upon us.

Again, thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Donna Durno'.

Donna Durno, Ph.D.
Executive Director

DD:ec

DONNA DURNO, Ph.D.
Executive Director

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
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MAJORITY POLICY

CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

October 23, 2001

Russ Diamond
305 West Sheridan Avenue
Anville, PA 17003

Dear Mr. Diamond:

Thank you for your recent e-mail to me regarding HR162. I appreciate your comments.

Please be assured that I will pass on your views to the task force anonymously. You make a very interesting case and your views need to be expressed to the task force members.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact me with your thoughts.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter J. Zug".

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER
102nd Legislative District

PJZ:fke



Letter

From: Russ Diamond <russ@raintree.com>
To: The Honorable Peter Zug <pzug@pahousegop.com>
Date: 9/28/01 3:17PM
Subject: HR 162

Russ Diamond
305 West Sheridan Avenue
Annville, PA 17003

September 28, 2001

The Honorable Peter Zug
324 Main Capitol, Box 202020
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Zug:

Dear Representative Zug,

I read with interest your letter dated 9/26/01 concerning HR 162. I'd like to share with you my recent experience as a vendor for an Intermediate Unit.

My company provides products for numerous clients throughout the nation. We were contacted this spring by an Intermediate Unit to fulfill a large order for distribution throughout the state education system. In the course of processing the order, we dealt with representatives from at least 4 different agencies, all of whom gave us conflicting instructions. Obviously, this led to much confusion for us, but in the end, resulted in successful fulfillment of the order.

One of the side effects of multiple organizations having 'authority' over this project was that the order was manufactured in part before it was thoroughly tested & verified by the responsible party. As a result, we were asked to re-manufacture the entire order again after some changes were made.

While we were not held responsible for the 're-do' (a \$10,000 loss to the IU), I'd like to say that, as a taxpayer, I was taken aback by the nonchalant attitude of the responsible agency. It was made pretty clear to me that this was not an unusual occurrence.

While I do not wish to jeopardize any future business with these agencies, I just wanted to point out to you what may be an additional benefit to coordinating efforts within the IU system - the elimination of costly errors due to redundant 'authority'.

Sincerely,

Russ Diamond