

*file  
with my  
bill - .05 BAC*

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY  
DUI ADVISORY BOARD**

16 West High Street, Suite 302  
Carlisle, PA 17013

Tel (717) 240-6300  
Fax (717) 240-6488

March 19, 1998

The Honorable C. Allan Egolf  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
House of Representatives  
Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Egolf:

On behalf of the Cumberland County (Driving Under the Influence) DUI Advisory Board, I would like to thank you for participating in our fifth DUI networking discussion, March 12. I appreciate your willingness to meet with our group and discuss local concerns. The members of the Board are pleased that your office continues to devote time and effort to the prevention of driving under the influence and related problems in Cumberland County.

If we can be of any assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely,



Nancy S. Johnson  
DUI Project Coordinator

**ALLAN EGOLF, MEMBER**  
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*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

**COMMITTEES**

VETERANS' AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
MAJORITY VICE CHAIRMAN  
EDUCATION  
AGING & YOUTH  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

**APPOINTMENTS:**

VIETNAM VETERANS' HEALTH  
INITIATIVE COMMISSION  
PA INTERSTATE COMPACT COMMISSION  
FOR EDUCATION  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TASK FORCE

February 3, 1997

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Allan Egolf *AE*  
Rep. Albert Masland *AM*

SUBJECT: Proposed DUI Legislation – Lowering “per se” BAC to .08  
(Previously House Bill 2269)

We intend to reintroduce legislation (formerly House Bill 2269) which will lower the DUI “legal limit” to the .08 level. Many organizations, including the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) have been encouraging states to make it illegal “per se” (by itself) if a person has a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or more. As of January 1, 1997, thirteen states have done so.

There are life-saving benefits associated with the reduction of the legal limit for blood alcohol. A recent NHTSA analysis of the effects of .08 in five states has revealed significant decreases in alcohol-related fatalities in four of those states since laws went into effect.

If you would like to cosponsor this bill or need more information, please call Teri in Rep. Egolf’s office at 3-1593.

**PREVIOUS SPONSORS OF HOUSE BILL 2269:**

Browne, Cowell, DiGirolamo, Fajt, Fargo, Geist, Hershey, Laughlin, Manderino, Melio, Miller, Pitts, Platts, Rohrer, Sather, Schroder, Steelman, Stern, Strittmatter, E. Z. Taylor, True, Tulli, Waugh, M. N. Wright, & Youngblood

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May 23, 1997

Constance Smoker



Newport, PA 17074

Dear Constance:

Thank you so much for your letter supporting my proposed legislation to lower the blood-alcohol level to .08. This legislation, House Bill 642, was referred to the House Transportation Committee for review on February 27, 1997.

I appreciate your encouraging letter and will do what I can to see that this legislation is passed and signed into law.

Thank you again for your input. If I can ever help you in any state-related matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allan Egolf".

Allan Egolf  
State Representative  
86<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

AE/tcr

Constance Smoker  
[REDACTED]  
Newport, Pa. 17074  
April 25, 1997

MAY 01 1997

**RE: Reducing Blood Alcohol Limit**

Representative Allan Egolf  
18 West Main Street  
P.O. Box 759  
New Bloomfield , Pa. 17068

Dear Representative Egolf,

As a Junior at Bloomsburg University I recently finished a three-credit hour course on "Alcohol: Use and Abuse." Until finishing this course I presumed to be knowledgeable on the dangers of this drug. Now it is obvious how ignorant I was to the devastating effects that accompany the use of this substance.

The statistics are astounding surrounding this subject. If a drug were introduced today that had a contributing factor in six of the top 10 causes of death in the U.S. it would be illegal, or at least only available through the medical field. Alcohol and other drugs are associated with 50% of traffic fatalities, 69% of drowning accidents, 50% of spouse abuse, 52% of rapes, the list goes on and on.

An economic toll to us as taxpayers in alcohol-related injuries cost an estimated \$47 billion annually (1993). At one large metropolitan hospital 40% of medical costs were a result of illnesses and injuries caused by the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs. Former Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Joseph A. Califano, Jr. estimated that in 1993 alcohol and other drugs cost every man, woman, and child in the U.S. \$1,608.00.

What can we do? More than most people realize. Educate ourselves and our children on the dangers of alcohol, both primary and secondary. Be active in community activities regarding alcohol prevention, and support our representatives in changing laws/legislation involving substance use.

Representative Allan Egolf  
RE: Reducing Blood Alcohol Limit  
Page 2  
April 25, 1997

The main purpose of this letter is to give my support of the legislation to lower the legal blood alcohol level to .08%. More than 40% of all deaths of 15-20 year Olds result from motor vehicle crashes. In 1994, 6,226 individuals aged 15-20 died in motor vehicle crashes, this is a needless loss of young lives that we can prevent. Please encourage your colleagues to support this change, with all the facts that are available how could they refuse to help save lives.

Also, being a nontraditional student at Bloomsburg I am very aware of underage drinking happening on campus. I support the zero tolerance legislation, hopefully it will help deter some students from making a mistake that can be devastating.

Thank you for your time, and if there anything I can do to help in this situation please feel free to contact me.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Constance Smoker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Constance Smoker

ALBERT H. MASLAND, MEMBER  
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PHONE: (717) 249-1990



*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

March 12, 1997

The Honorable Thomas J. Ridge  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
Room 225, Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Divestiture and Driving Under the Influence

Dear Governor Ridge:

I was pleased to receive an invitation today from Dennis Walsh, Secretary for Legislative Affairs, to a breakfast briefing on March 19, 1997, regarding the proposed divestiture plan for the State Liquor Store System. The purpose of this letter is to share my political perspective away from the glaring gaze of our press core pundits. Although we have disagreed on a handful of issues, I have endeavored, sometimes unsuccessfully, to keep my criticism discreet and de minimis. My urge to speak out has been quelled by my sense of loyalty - - something the "loyal" opposition never considers.

Before digressing too much, permit me to briefly share my opinions. In short, the legislative success of divestiture is directly related to the legislative success of enforcement measures. I commend you on your efforts to deal with underage drinking, and I am sure your package will beef-up the LCB's enforcement arm. I fear those efforts will still fall short in assuaging the concerns of legislators, interest groups, and the electorate at large. I firmly believe that administrative support for companion legislation is essential. As prime sponsor of Administrative License Suspension for the past two sessions, I urge you to affirmatively support House Bill 596. I know you are familiar with this legislation, so I will not belabor my point with statistics.

I hesitate to predict success for divestiture if it is accompanied by ALS; however, the simultaneous advocacy for .08 legislation (HB 642/Egolf, Masland, et al.), would go a long way to ensuring success. I am not suggesting that these bills be melded into a monolithic missive that is visited upon the General Assembly. Rather, it is my suggestion that your announcement of the divestiture plan coincide with the support for various enforcement measures such as those contained in these bills.

file  
HB 642  
COMMITTEES

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY  
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PA COMMISSION ON CRIME & DELINQUENCY  
LOCAL TAX REFORM CAUCUS  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE CAUCUS

COPY

The Honorable Thomas J. Ridge  
Page 2  
March 12, 1997

I would be happy to discuss this at greater length with your staff or, time permitting, yourself. Finally, at the risk of being importunate, I have enclosed a copy of my letter to you dated October 9, 1996, which addresses, inter alia, these concerns.

Sincerely yours,



Albert H. Masland

AHM/js  
Enclosure

cc: ✓ Representative Allan Egolf  
Dennis Walsh, Secretary for Legislative Affairs  
Charles Zogby, Policy Director  
Leslie Gromis, Deputy Chief of Staff, Public Liaison Office  
John E. Jones, III; Chairman, Liquor Control Board

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*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

October 9, 1996

The Honorable Thomas J. Ridge  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
Room 225, Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Miscellaneous Legislative Issues

Dear Governor Ridge:

The purpose of this letter is to apprise you of my interest in various issues which have not been fully addressed at this stage in the legislative session. I have been in communication with members of your staff about most of these concerns; however, I felt it would be better to share my thoughts directly.

Frankly, I am frustrated regarding the status of these issues. I accept the bulk of the blame for not being more active in pressing these matters with committee chairmen, leadership and the administration. I have come to realize that just because I think something is a good idea does not mean it will go anywhere on its own. Nor, do I expect this epistle to generate any frenzied flourish of activity in November. My primary goal is to let you know my concerns without assuming, like some of my constituents do with me, that you possess powers of extrasensory perception with respect to 253 constitutional necessities.

**Lobbyist Disclosure Reform** (House Bill 1946 and Senate Bill 1180)

I have worked, along with Representative Michlovic and Senator Heckler, to impress upon our respective leaders the importance of this legislation. I realize you support this concept in general, having chaired the Government Reform Task Force during your campaign which promoted such legislation. Nevertheless, the absence of vocal support from the administration renders our reform efforts quixotic. Any nudge from you to bring this up for a vote in November would be helpful down the road, realizing that final passage is unlikely this year.

COMMITTEES

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**Commission for Women** (House Bill 2546 and Senate Bill 1476)

I recognize the fact that, philosophically, you wanted to disband the Commission. I believe it can still serve an effective role in government if it is not tied too closely to any political party. Unfortunately, the road bumps in the past and in this administration are the result of the injection of partisan politics on behalf of the various administrations. Although I supported your KIDS II Program, I believe it was inappropriate for the Commission to disseminate promotional materials on this issue. Several commissioners not only thought this was wrong but decided not to participate in any further Commission activities.

I submit, with all due respect, that the only way to solve this problem is to support the establishment of a bi-partisan legislative commission. I realize your staff has advised you to the contrary, but I believe any effort to retain the Commission and revive it under the present circumstances is doomed to fail. Support for the legislative proposal will not only result in an effective Commission, but will also reinforce your political support with various womens' organizations. Clearly, leadership will not move this measure through both Chambers without your support.

**Driving Under the Influence** (House Bill 1263)

While I commend you for addressing the problems created by the PA Supreme Court with respect to the "three hour" rule, I suggest that much more can and should be done in this area. At a recent public hearing held by the Judiciary and Transportation Committees, the most important action highlighted by several witnesses (none of whom were lined up at my suggestion) was the implementation of Administrative License Suspension (ALS).

As the prime sponsor of ALS, I realize it is not a simple matter to get our committee chairman to consider this. Last session, the bill moved through the Transportation and Appropriations Committees to the Floor, primarily because of the support of Governor Casey. This initiative not only requires your support, but may well be necessary to maintain the flow of federal funds in the future.

**Initiative and Referendum**

Although I am not a prime sponsor of measures to expand the use of initiative and referendum in Pennsylvania, I wholeheartedly support that. I am currently working on legislation for next session which I hope will garner your support since this was another campaign issue which you effectively voiced in 1994. These measures will be crucial in maintaining any support from grass-roots taxpayer organizations in 1998.

The Honorable Thomas J. Ridge  
Page 3

**Deputy Sheriffs Training Board** (House Bill 2287)

I understand from conversations with PCCD that the movement of this bill is one of their top concerns for the end of the legislative session. Although we have run into some trouble with Allegheny County, I believe this matter could be brought to fruition if, as with the above issues, your stamp of approval is clearly affixed.

**Turnpike Commission** (House Bill 2715)

To say that I am frustrated in dealing with the Turnpike Commission is an understatement. Realizing that you are not in a position to control or dictate to them, I hold no grudge. But, it would be remiss for me to mention my legislative concerns without raising the problems at the Plainfield Service Plaza - one of my top sources of "legislative heartburn". If Representative Itkin is successful in his bid to merge the Commission with PennDOT, something I recently signed onto, its epitaph will read "unbridled arrogance". Perhaps the same will be said of me, but at least I realize I am afflicted with the disease.

I am cognizant of the fact that my agenda is one of 253 in the General Assembly and that you have a few priorities of your own. Because I assume primary responsibility for the current status of these measures, I seek no special consideration. As stated above, my purpose is to articulate my frustrations so that you and your staff will not have to read my mind.

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter.

Sincerely yours,



Albert H. Masland

AHM/js