

**URGENT NOTICE:** Secretaries please bring this to the attention of your Member. This language will be introduced tomorrow afternoon (Wednesday, June 29. No hardcopy will be circulated.

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All Members of the House of Representatives

**FROM:** Representative Thomas Tangretti  
Representative Dan Frankel  
Representative Tom Killion

**DATE:** June 28, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Co-sponsorship of Legislation: Historic Preservation Grant Program

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In the near future, we plan to introduce legislation designed to offer grants to support reinvestment in historic preservation of residential and commercial sites. The language represents an alternative to House Bills 26 and 27, which were offered earlier this session.

As you may recall, the Brookings Institution's 2003 study entitled *Back to Prosperity, A Competitive Agenda for Renewing Pennsylvania* concluded that using state historic tax credits was one of the keys to returning Pennsylvania's older commercial and residential neighborhoods, as well as the entire state, to prosperity. Even before this recommendation, we had been advocating for legislation aimed at providing tax credits for historic preservation efforts. However, in recent months, concerns have been raised that these tax credits violate the uniformity clause of the Pennsylvania Constitution. For this reason, we have worked with the Governor's office to develop an alternative proposal to create a grant program that would offer assistance to owners who restore and utilize residential and commercial properties in historically significant areas.

Specifically, the grant program will be collaboration between the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The framework for existing historic designations will be used to determine eligibility for grants for both residential and commercial sites. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis in order to ensure the maximum economic impact for Pennsylvania.

Clearly, as we look for ways to improve our communities and revitalize our neighborhoods, preserving our local historic treasures should be one of our top priorities. If you wish to join us in this effort, please contact Cynthia Clory in Representative Tangretti's office by calling 783-5963 or via e-mail at [cclory@pahouse.net](mailto:cclory@pahouse.net).



MAR 14 2008

March 10, 2008

Representative Thomas A. Tangretti  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
328 Irvis Office Building  
PO Box 202057  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2057


Re: Historic Preservation Incentive Grant

Dear Representative Tangretti:

As the executive director of a community development corporation active in the East End of the City of Pittsburgh, I would like to thank you for introducing legislation (H.B 221) that would create a state grant program for the restoration of historic properties. East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) will greatly benefit from this program as we are actively engaged in the restoration of historic properties within both our Elm Street program and our Main Street program. In addition, we are pursuing the designation of our business core as a National Register historic district.

The creation of an historic preservation grant program to provide incentives to owners of historic homes and commercial properties will become an important tool for our rehabilitation efforts. Thank you again for your efforts to support historic preservation.

Sincerely,



Maelene Myers  
Executive Director