SENATOR

BOB REGOLA

39TH DISTRICT

183 MAIN CAPITOL HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3039 PHONE: 717-787-6063 FAX: 717-772-0580



Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, VICE CHAIRMAN
AGING AND YOUTH
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
GAME AND FISHERIES
STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY

bregola@pasen.gov www.senatorregola.com

October 31, 2006

Honorable Thomas A. Tangretti Pennsylvania House of Representatives 328 Irvis Office Building Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Tangretti:

I am writing regarding Senate Bill 1140, which passed in the Senate on October 23, 2006 and was recently referred to the House Judiciary Committee. I am requesting you ask Chairman Dennis O'Brien to bring this bill to a vote.

This legislation, to which I am the prime sponsor, would amend existing state law to specifically allow courts to impose a booking fee, not to exceed \$200, on someone who is convicted of a crime. The purpose is that counties could use the revenue generated from the fee to establish and operate regional booking centers. Montgomery and Cumberland Counties already impose this fee, so it's nothing new, however, my legislation will provide the courts statutory authority. These centralized booking centers provide many benefits to local police departments and enhance their effort to increase safety and security within their jurisdictions.

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency would have oversight on the booking center plan's certification and guidelines relating to technology.

I believe Senate Bill 1140 is a high priority for Westmoreland County. Regionalized booking centers are an important tool in crime fighting. The centers can provide fast and efficient processing for criminals and help make communities safer by allowing police to know who they have in custody more rapidly. Additionally, they are cost effective because they are shared by many different departments and provide local police departments with state-of-the-art equipment and national databases.

Honorable Thomas A. Tangretti October 31, 2006 Page Two

Thank you for your consideration in this important piece of legislation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bol Regola BOB REGOLA

BOB REGOLA SENATOR, 39TH DISTRISCT

BR/lnr