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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
INSURANCE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
DEMOCRATIC POLICY

November 13, 2006

Dear Colleagues:

After long and careful consideration, I have decided to run for Leader of our Caucus. I believe that we cannot continue down the path that too often has produced the kind of decisions such as the pay raise vote last year.

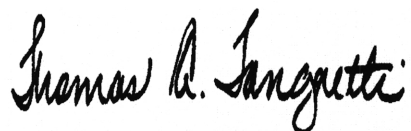
However, in the pay raise vote I recognize an opportunity to make major changes in how we do the business of our Caucus and in how we do the people's business. The pay raise debacle has created an unmistakable demand by many members of our Caucus, members of the Republican Caucus, the media and, most importantly, the voting public to start over with a real reform agenda that would preempt back-room deals and dead-of-night votes.

But there are other reasons that I think we need to change leaders, reasons which we have discussed among ourselves many times but only sometimes in Caucus with our current leaders. These concerns never seem to be addressed or answered. They include items such as unequal staff distribution, pay and other resources; the participation in caucus of current leaders infrequently and only when they have reason to ask rank-and-file members for our support on an issue or vote; and, perhaps most importantly, a complete disregard for rank and file members' participation not just in decisions about legislation and legislative policy and strategy, but also decisions about caucus appointments, funds and other resources. These concerns need to be addressed.

So let me be clear about my platform: I believe that the Democratic Caucus can and must be the Caucus to pull back the curtain and allow the light of public scrutiny and accountability on the legislature and the legislative process. We can and must be the Caucus to finally put in place procedures that allow the media and the public to access reasonable and important information about how we do business. And, finally, we can and must be a Caucus that once again ensures that our membership is the entity that sets the Caucus agenda as opposed to merely being told what it is and what to do after decisions have already been made.

The voters of Pennsylvania have given us a historic opportunity to turn a monumental mistake into changes that will make our legislature and Pennsylvania government better. Our leadership elections can be the first step in taking advantage of that opportunity. With that in mind, I ask for your support in the upcoming election for Caucus Leader. I pledge to you that under my leadership, the unfairness, secrecy, fear and retribution that has characterized our caucus for too long will come to an end.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A. Tangretti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'T'.

*Thomas A. Tangretti
State Representative
57th Legislative District*