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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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HARRISBURG, May 5 -- State Rep. Bud George, D-Clearfield, announced the reorganization of the Northwest Legislative Caucus.

The Caucus is comprised of legislators from Armstrong, Beaver, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Lycoming, Mercer, Mifflin, Venango and Warren counties.

George, who chairs the House Conservation Committee, also will serve as caucus chairman. He is joined on the leadership team by Rep. Ruth Rudy, D-Centre, vice chairwoman and Rep. Thomas Scrimenti, D-Erie, secretary. The remaining officers are Rep. Dan Surra, D-Clearfield Elk, treasurer, and legal counsel Rep. Michael Hanna, D-Clinton.

"I think we have an excellent team of capable legislators that will accomplish a great deal," George said.

The remaining members of the caucus are Reps. Linda Bebko-Jones, D-Erie, Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie, who serves as chairman of the House Federal-State Relations Committee, Thomas Fee, D-Lawrence, chairman of the House Game & Fisheries Committee, Frank LaGrotta D-Lawrence, Michael Gruitza, D-Mercer and David R. Wright, D-Clarion, who heads the Consumer Affairs Committee.

This session, the caucus intends to focus on economic development, school funding formulas, access to health care, improved transportation and tax reform.

"We believe that these are some of the most critical problems facing the northwestern region of the state," George said. "With the combined talents of our members, this caucus will be able to find solutions to these problems and improve the quality of life in Northwest Pennsylvania and across the state."

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