

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

□ 9 WEST MAIN STREET  
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428  
PHONE: (814) 725-8664

□ 202 NORTH CENTER STREET  
CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA 16407  
PHONE: (814) 664-9126

□ 25B, EAST WING  
HOUSE BOX 202020  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020  
PHONE: (717) 787-9475



COMMITTEES

AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES  
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CARE AND SERVICES  
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

May 8, 2001

Ms. Beth A. Pituch

[REDACTED]

Waterford, PA 16441

Dear Ms. Pituch:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your letter regarding the George W. Bush administration's approach to environmental issues. I appreciate the time and effort taken to contact my office and include me in your thoughts.

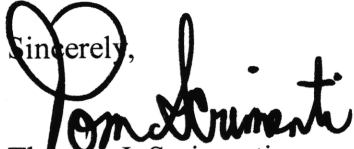
As I hope you know and as proven by my record of service, I am deeply committed to preserving and promoting a clean and safe environment. To that end, I clearly understand your concerns regarding the recent environmental issues that are impacting our nation and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

As you may know, I am a co-sponsor of House Bill 1399, which would require the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to utilize at least 10 percent of the monies allocated to their Environmental Stewardship and Watershed Protection Fund to provide grants for safe drinking water projects and wastewater treatment projects. At this time, the bill is being further studied by the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. As a supporter of environmental initiatives, I will give this legislation my utmost support should it come before the House for a vote.

In addition, I support local initiatives to promote a clean, safe environment. This past April 2001, several municipalities within my district were awarded grants from the DEP's Recycling Grant Program. I am proud that our community's efforts have provided a positive impact on residents and our environment. Also, the Benedictine Sisters of Erie were awarded a state grant to expand their Glinodo Earth Force program. This grant will be used to expand the Earth Force program's "Community Action and Problem Solving." By teaching tomorrow's leaders how to address environmental concerns today in order to preserve the beauty and vitality of the earth for generations to come.

Ms. Beth A. Putuch  
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Moreover, I will continue to think of the long-range environmental impact of legislation and will continue to vote responsibly. Again, thank you for sharing your concerns with me. As always, your input is welcomed and appreciated. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
  
Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

APR 26 2001

April 17, 2001

Beth A. Pituch

Waterford, PA 16441

Hon. Tom Scrimenti  
25B East Wing  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Mr. Scrimenti,

This letter is to implore your consideration for a particular issue that has come up in politics recently. Since the beginning of the George W. Bush administration, environmental issues have been dealt with deplorably. This concerns a wide range of Pennsylvania citizens, including those of us in more rural areas. The funding cuts to the EPA, which total over 462 million dollars, are favorable for industry and large corporations, concerns all of us with environmental consciences, to say nothing of parents and grandparents. It has been proven that global warming is a scientific phenomenon and that high levels of arsenic in water are toxic, yet the current administration insists that ignoring both conditions is safe and healthy. It appears as if the status of our progeny and our planet are of very little importance at the moment. As a soon-to-be college graduate, I am very concerned about these issues for my generation and the children I will someday have.

In the light of current events, I ask you to please take a closer look at environmental issues that effect us here in Pennsylvania as well as in the nation as a whole. As a representative, I'm not sure what you can do about these larger issues, but when you are able, think of the long-term effects of environmental legislation and please vote responsibly. Making good decisions now regarding water, air, and general quality of life here on Earth may save us from a far worse fate – a fate that may not be far off if the current trends are allowed to continue.

Thank You,



Beth A. Pituch

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CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA 16407  
PHONE: (814) 664-9126

□ 25B, EAST WING  
HOUSE BOX 202020  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020  
PHONE: (717) 787-9475



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DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING  
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

September 15, 1997

Mr. Philip B. Friedman, Esquire  
President  
Erie County Bar Association  
302 West 9th Street  
Erie, PA 1502-1427

Dear Mr. Friedman: - *Phil,*

Thank you for your recent letter concerning your opposition to Senate Bill 492; the Commercial Real Estate Broker Lien Act. Your professional input on this consequential matter is most important to me in my decision making process. The Erie County Bar Association's unanimous opposition to this legislation speaks volumes.

As it currently stands, Senate Bill 492 appears to offer no significant improvement or benefit as a public policy measure. It has the potential to render a host of legal entanglements in an already complex proceeding. Both buyers and sellers in commercial real estate transactions risk more to lose than gain from this proposed legislation.

Again, I appreciate you apprising me of your position on this matter. Should there be anything which I may do for you with this or any other issue, please feel free to contact my office.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

*Tom*  
Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
9 WEST MAIN STREET  
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428  
PHONE: (814) 725-8664

9 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  
CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA 16407  
PHONE: (814) 864-9126

HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 96  
25B, EAST WING  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0028  
PHONE: (717) 787-9475



House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGING AND YOUTH  
INSURANCE  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

December 28, 1994

Mr. John T. Nesbit and Mr. Bruce Swanson  
Erie County Technical Institute  
429 East Grandview Blvd.  
Erie, PA 16504

Dear Mr. Nesbit and Mr. Swanson:

Thank you for your recent correspondence discussing the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges' proposed new funding system. I certainly understand and share your concern about this important issue.

As you may know, the new legislative session will be extremely challenging, as the Ridge administration and leadership in the House will need time to adjust to their new roles. In addition, both of these groups have expressed their opposition to any major new spending commitments. Nevertheless, I have taken the liberty of forwarding this proposal to Democratic Appropriations Chairman Dwight Evans for review and consideration. Please be assured that I will remember the need to provide affordable higher education opportunities as the budgetary process moves forward.

Thank you again for sharing this information. If I can be of any further assistance on this or other issues in the future, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Scrimenti".

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

TJS:kf

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428  
PHONE: (814) 725-8664

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CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA 16407  
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HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0028  
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PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGING AND YOUTH  
INSURANCE  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

December 29, 1994

The Honorable Dwight Evans  
Democratic Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
512-E-3 East Wing, Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Evans:

I was recently contacted by Mr. John T. Nesbit and Mr. Bruce Swanson, President and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Erie County Technical Institute, regarding the need to devise a new funding system for the Commonwealth's fifteen community institutions of higher education. Please find their correspondence attached for your perusal.

As you can see, the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges has developed a proposal which moves away from the current enrollment-based formula to a system which mirrors that for the state-owned universities. In addition, this proposal removes local governments of some of the burden for funding these institutions, which means that taxpayers can receive much-needed property tax relief. Finally, this proposal is based on the actual cost of providing high-quality and accessible educational opportunities, not on student enrollment, which has proven problematic.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas J. Scrimenti".

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

Attachments

cc: John T. Nesbit  
Bruce Swanson

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
9 WEST MAIN STREET  
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 18428  
PHONE: (814) 725-8684

9 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  
CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA 18407  
PHONE: (814) 864-9128

HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 98  
25B, EAST WING  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0028  
PHONE: (717) 787-9475



House of Representatives  
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PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGING AND YOUTH  
INSURANCE  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

March 6, 1995

Mr. Daniel P. Carlson

Erie, Pennsylvania 16510-5610

Dear Mr. Carlson:

Thank you for writing me regarding my position on Senate Resolution 12, which would authorize a delegation of Pennsylvania elected officials to attend the proposed Conference of the States. Your concern regarding this issue is well warranted, since this Convention could seriously affect intergovernmental issues and the relationship between the states and the federal government.

The process to bring about a Conference of the States begins on the state level, where at least twenty-six states must pass a resolution to convene. This is eight states short of the required two-thirds necessary to call a constitutional convention under Article V of the U.S. Constitution. In Pennsylvania, SR 12 is a concurrent resolution, which must be passed by both houses of the General Assembly and approved by the Governor.

If a majority of states vote to convene (which would be the first formal convening since the Constitutional Convention of 1787), the delegates will debate what type of long-term, structural changes are needed in the federal-state relationship short of a Constitutional Convention. State delegations would vote on a petition, which would be sent back to each state legislature for approval.

The proposal might include various legislative and legal strategies, and possibly, suggested amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Any proposals made at a Conference of the States would not directly effect the Pennsylvania Constitution or the state's governmental operations. If the petition is approved by the state legislatures, the Conference would formally petition Congress to vote on its proposals. Congress would have no legal obligation to act on the petition, although failure to act would very likely carry serious political consequences.

Proponents of a Conference of the States make several arguments based on their belief that a great imbalance in power has grown between the states and the federal government in recent years. For

example, they believe that unfunded mandates and regulations passed down by the federal government have encroached on the sovereignty of the states. Moreover, proponents believe that states have been more innovative in the development and implementation of public policy than the federal government.

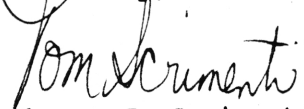
Opponents contend that the Conference could be a dangerous first step towards turning back the clock on environmental, health and civil rights standards which were made possible through federal action. Moreover, they (like yourself) fear radical and selfish political interests may control the debate. This same fear of "factions" was voiced by James Madison over two hundred years ago in the Federalist Papers.

While I believe the states should be more equal partners with the federal government, I understand your fear that interest groups may have too much influence over the convention. Although Congress would still have to act on any recommendations made by the states, a Conference of the States would be a major step towards redefining the balance of power in our federal system.

Because of the complexity of this issue, I have not yet committed to a vote for approval or disapproval of Pennsylvania's participation in the Conference. However, I can assure you that I will take your position into consideration if and when SR 12 comes to a vote on the House floor.

Once again, thank you for sharing your views with me on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any future matter of concern to you.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative