

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) 864-9128

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

June 8, 1993

Mr. David L. Buesink
President
Hill Engineering, Inc.
8 Gibson Street
North East, PA 16428

Dear Dave:

I want to thank you for your recent letter to my attention in which you ask support to assure sustained if not increased state funding allocations for our Conservation Districts.

Attached for your perusal is a letter which I am forwarding to Representative Dwight Evans, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, outlining my intent to support increased funding for Conservation Districts in our next supplemental appropriation bill which will come before the House this coming fall.

Your letter was very well written and provided succinct and well thought out points which should assist in our developing additional rationale to facilitate our objectives.

Again, I thank you for your correspondence to my attention on this matter and trust that you will continue to communicate with my office on this matter.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/js

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

June 9, 1993

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

Dear Representative Evans:

As you are well aware, State Budget proceeds to Conservation Districts have not increased for several years and continued failure at the state level to reasonably fund Conservation Districts poses a very real threat to the current decentralization goals of DER. DER currently cost-shares 120 district staff with the \$1.5 million allocation. These people are implementing DER programs and as you well realize, salary and benefit costs for 120 DER state persons would be approximately \$7 million.

The full amount appropriated to the respective Conservation Districts for fiscal '92-93 was \$1,737,000. Of that amount, \$237,000 was committed to a budgetary reserve fund. The amount appropriated for '93-94 was identical to the previous years appropriation with the same amount diverted to budgetary reserve. I encourage you as a member of the House Leadership team to press for the need for additional funding for the Conservation Districts and demand that the amounts appropriated will be fully distributed according to the intent of the legislation.

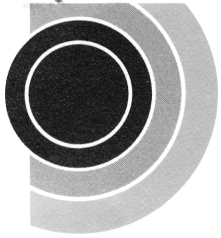
What I intend to do is support a request for additional funding in a supplemental appropriation this coming year and work to assure that the Budget Office releases the money which was previously earmarked for the Conservation District use. I solicit your support in the successful accomplishment of this objective.

If increased support to the respective Conservation Districts is not perceived as an integral and necessary budgetary objective, then many conservation projects on a local level, will likely be returned to DER for their administration.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/js
enclosure



HILL ENGINEERING, INC.

8 GIBSON STREET NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428 (814) 725-8659

Registered Engineers & Surveyors Pennsylvania — New York — Ohio

APR 27 1993

APR 30 1993

April 26, 1993

Thomas J. Scrimenti
9 West Main Street
North East, PA 16428

Dear Thomas:

I write as a Pennsylvania businessman respectfully urging you to use your voice and vote to assure sustained if not increased State funding allocations for our Conservation Districts. Such urging is predicated on 33+ years of consulting to political subdivisions, businesses, and industries of the Commonwealth, involving regular and direct interfacing with public programs and regulators at the County, State and Federal levels.

From such experience and while some Districts perform better than others, I can categorically state that Conservation Districts provide vital and essential services of direct benefit to public and private enterprises at the community level whether the recipient be a farmer, the developer of a golf course or land subdivision, a commercial operator, an expanding industry, or a municipality administering a public utility improvement. Services by Districts are not only timely and effective, but are produced at a much lower cost than can be done by DER or other agencies of the State or higher jurisdictions. Conservation Districts represent the last bastion of personalized service to our citizens. People can reach them, they are available to discuss location specific needs, to advise how they can assist and will even visit the involved site to expedite the availability of qualified staging inputs.

As you know, State budget proceeds to Conservation Districts have not increased in the last five years. While that is bad enough, we are advised that General Assembly endorsed increases in each of the last two (2) years were ultimately deferred to and impounded in the budget reserve account. In my view, continued failure at the State level to reasonably fund Conservation Districts poses a very real threat to the current decentralization goals of the DER. Specifically, some 120 District staff across the State are currently cost-shared with DER in consideration of the \$1,500,000 annual Commonwealth allocation to the Districts. These cost-shared District staffers are effectively implementing DER programs. This shared staff arrangement appears to be very cost effective for the Commonwealth, especially when considering that 120 full-time DER

Thomas J. Scrimenti
April 26, 1993
Page Two


positions could be expected to carry costs to the State of from \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000 per year for wages and benefits, exclusive of indirect expenses in support thereof.

Based on the widely accepted service credentials of our Districts and the economy of cost their participation represents, our best course of action at present should be to increase Conservation District implementation of DER programs to the fullest extent possible with funding allocations sufficient to do the job. If not, I am afraid many counties statewide will elect to opt out of any participation in DER delegated programs, returning these obligations fully to the Commonwealth at increased costs and reduced service reliability to all. If that occurs, I am afraid the current and meritorious "one-stop permitting" initiative of DER might well become an "ALL-STOP permitting" nightmare for everyone.

Your support for continued and increased Conservation District involvement in implementing DER programs with sustained and possibly elevated state budget funding is respectfully requested. If I as an involved end user and taxpayer might gather additional data and advisory inputs beneficial to your considerations in this regard, do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

HILL ENGINEERING, INC.


David L. Buesink
President

DLB/jt

P.S. LeRoy Gross and his staff at the Waterford office make our Erie County Conservation District the best of some 15 Districts I have dealt with over the years. If we lose their participation in implementing and administering DER programs, all of Erie County will suffer unduly.

88608



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
ERIE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
140 WEST SIXTH STREET
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16501-1011
(814) 451-6374

Roger M. Fischer, Judge

November 30, 1994

The Honorable Tom Scrimenti
Representative - The 4th Legislative District
9 West Main Street
North East, PA 16428

Dear Tom:

Say it isn't so! My tally sheet on Representative Veon's proposed amendment to Senate Bill No. 537 which would have deleted cost-of-living adjustments for the judiciary reflects that you voted in favor of the amendment. Was there any special reason I might attempt to address?

As you know, the Pennsylvania Judiciary lags significantly behind the Federal Judiciary and also behind other states of comparable size in the salaries it pays its judges. The present cost-of-living adjustment is greatly appreciated and its elimination would have been painful.

With best wishes for the holidays,



Roger M. Fischer, Judge



Roger M. Fischer, Judge

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
ERIE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
140 WEST SIXTH STREET
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16501-1011
(814) 451-6374

DEC 20 1994

December 19, 1994

The Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti
Representative - The 4th Legislative District
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 West Main Street
North East, PA 16428

Dear Tom:

Thanks for your prompt response to my letter concerning your vote to delete COLAS from the compensation of judges. Frankly, I wasn't aware that there had been an alternative plan available for discussion at the time of the vote.

You know, of course, that judges like everyone else will always contend that there is no better place to spend tax money than on their salaries! But in a more serious vein, while I can understand your position that individuals elected to public office are aware of the salary when they seek the office and therefore should not request pay raises (note that I say that I understand but not that I agree!), I don't believe that it necessarily follows that cost of living adjustments which preserve the value of that salary in future economic times should be eliminated as well. That would result in a decrease in the salary originally given.

In any event, I admire your willingness to discuss the matter. You obviously represent your constituents well and you can take some pride in their confidence in you.

Please accept my very best wishes for the holiday season and the coming year for you and your entire family.



Roger M. Fischer, Judge

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGING AND YOUTH
INSURANCE
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
9 WEST MAIN STREET
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
PHONE: (814) 725-8084

9 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA 16407
PHONE: (814) 664-9128

HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 06
258, EAST WING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0028
PHONE: (717) 787-8475

December 9, 1994

The Honorable Roger M. Fischer, Judge
Court of Common Pleas
Sixth Judicial District of Pennsylvania
Erie County Court House
140 West Sixth Street
Erie, PA 16501-1101

Dear Judge Fischer:

I received and read your letter about my vote on the automatic cost of living increase for judges. As always, I appreciate you including me in your efforts. It was a pleasure to hear from you.

You were correct in your description of my vote. Briefly, I want to explain my rationale. As you know, the yearly budget process develops in a volatile environment with no fixed figures as starting points. Many economic and political factors combine to determine the spending boundaries available to the General Assembly as it draws up its plan. It was with that in mind that I voted to change the policy of compulsory COLA's and replace it with a plan that better reflected the economic situation of the day. Frankly, I can envision the day when the funds spent to increase the yearly stipend of judges above the salary that they accepted in taking their bench assignment will not be available or would be better spent elsewhere. As the competition for tax dollars grows, I thought the public good would be served by allowing for this budgetary discretion.

I can certainly understand your opposition to this position, and I knew my vote would cause some controversy. However, I still believe that in these tight fiscal times, all budgetary options and tools should be available for forming the very best state spending plan possible.

I would be pleased to hear from you again on this matter or on any other issue of importance to your service.

Sincerely,

Tom Scrimenti
State Representative

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



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

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

mailed 12/19

December 13, 2002

Mr. Lyell P. Cook, County Coroner
Erie County Court House
140 West 6th Street
Erie, PA 16501

Dear Mr. Cook: - *Lyle,*

I am writing you this letter regarding House Bill 2962, which amends the County Code to provide for the disclosure of death records as well as authorize a hotel tax for tourism promotion.

As you may know, House Bill 2962 would require every coroner to disclose all official records and papers to the county prothonotary's office for public use. The bill would also authorize a coroner to seal records that are part of an ongoing criminal law enforcement investigation by showing good cause. The amended version of the bill added the authorization of a hotel tax to generate revenues for convention promotion and tourism development.

While I supported the original version of the bill, I was one of six representatives that voted against the final version of the bill on final passage. I did not support the amendments to the bill implementing a hotel tax that were in the waning hours of session attached to the bill as a tax imposition tactic during the sine die session.

At this writing, House Bill 2962 was passed by the House of Representatives on November 25, 2002 and was referred to the Senate Local Government Committee on November 27, 2002 where it died in committee due to the adjournment of the 2001-2002 legislative session. However, this is not to say that the issue of the disclosure of death records by coroners will not be revisited when the House of Representatives reconvenes in January.

Page 2

I hope this information proves useful. If I may be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative
4th Legislative District

OFFICE OF
LYELL P. COOK
COUNTY CORONER

TELEPHONE: (814) DAYS: 451-6331 • EVENINGS: 452-2911 • FAX: 451-6183

October 22, 2002

Thomas Scrimenti
2204 Bernwood Drive
Erie, PA 16510-6306

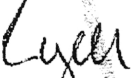
Dear Tom,

The events of September 11th have taught us many things...among them the rights of families to a standard of privacy regarding the publication of the details of death during the pendency of an ongoing investigation. This also may become an issue with the Treiber case here in Erie.

Since the crash of Flight 93 in Somerset County, many have asked or demanded that the Coroner provide information and photos of the scene. Two court cases have risen this year where demands for detailed information regarding ongoing police/district attorney investigations have been filed under the Coroner's Act because the information was not available to the public under the Right To Know Law.

Clearly one standard should apply to cases involving ongoing investigations. The Pennsylvania Coroners Association and I request your support clarifying this area of the law. I would consider it a personal favor if you would call Representative Robert Bastain's office and sign onto this bill.

Sincerely,



Lyell P. Cook
Erie County Coroner

c: Jane Earll
Linda Bebkö Jones
Karl Boyes
Tom Scrimenti
Gayle Wright

*PS
Please direct all
letters to
office*

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) 664-9126

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



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

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

November 8, 1995

Mr. Merle E. Wood, Secretary-Treasurer
Pennsylvania State Coroners Association
Erie County Court House
Erie, PA 16501

Dear Mr. Wood: - *Merle*

Thank you for taking the time to write to me and state your concerns with House Bill 162 which would modify the amount of fees collected by county row officers. I am always interested in hearing the concerns of my constituents and helping in any way that I can.

House Bill 162 was referred to the House Local Government Committee on January 20th where it currently remains. Although a Local Government hearing was held on October 17th no action was taken on this legislation. The next committee meeting is scheduled for November 14th.

This bill authorizes county boards of commissioners to increase or decrease fees shared by county row officers for products and services provided. Alterations must be preceded by a certified public audit and at least one sunshined public meeting. They must be approved by ordinance.

I hope this information is of use to you. If I can be of any further assistance please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Tom
Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

Pennsylvania State Coroners Association

MERLE E. WOOD
Secretary-Treasurer



Erie County Court House
Erie, Pennsylvania 16501

Phone (814) 452-2911

October 13, 1995

The Honorable James R. Merry
Representative, 5th Legislative District
House P.O. Box 202020
Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Merry,

Tom

I am writing you concerning House Bill 162 which will be considered at your local government committee meeting on Tuesday. The Pennsylvania State Coroners Association is opposed to this legislation in its present form. When we discussed this proposed legislation earlier in the year it was our understanding that the elected officials whose office the fees impacted upon would be present at the meeting with County Commissioners (County Council) when these fees are set and that the elected official would have the right to veto the proposed fee if he was not satisfied with the amount proposed. Unless this legislation is amended our association will go on record as being against the passage of House Bill 162.

Michael Norris, Cumberland County Coroner, has been advised of your meeting and if at all possible will represent the Coroners Association on Tuesday, the 17th. If you care to discuss this any further, you can reach me at 814-451-6331.

Sincerely yours,

Merle

Merle E. Wood
Secretary-Treasurer
Pennsylvania State Coroners Association

MEW:nm

cc: Bebko-Jones
Boyes
Cappabianca
Lescovitz
Pistella
✓ Scrimenti