

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

□ 9 WEST MAIN STREET  
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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

August 3, 1995

Seth Tuttle  
Realtor

[REDACTED]  
Erie, PA 16504

Dear Mr. Tuttle:

I want to thank you for your recent letter in which you ask my assistance to support House Bill 1571. Please know that I am a co-sponsor of this legislation.

As you are probably aware, House Bill 1571 was co-committed to the House Appropriations Committee on June 15, 1995. You may be sure that I will continue to support House Bill 1571 when it comes before the House for a vote.

I thank you for your interest in this matter. If I can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Scrimenti".

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

/dj

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

November 3, 1994

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGING AND YOUTH  
INSURANCE  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

1

Dear 2:

I have been leading the effort to stop the use of reformulated gas in Erie County. To date, I have taken the following actions:

- 1) Contacted the top federal environmental officials on the East Coast, urging that our area be re-classified to an area not required to use re-formulated gas;
- 2) Contacted the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (DER) urging re-classification of Erie County as "a clean air quality area";
- 3) Drafted legislation reversing any negative response from DER to be introduced without delay when the State Legislature re-convenes in November;
- 4) Contacted our area's Congressional Delegation urging that they take action to amend the Clean Air Act they voted for - so that areas already with "clean air" (like ours) be made exempt from the reformulated gas requirement.

Now, you can do your part by:

- 1) Calling, writing, or visiting federal legislators in our area to urge that they act to amend the Clean Air Act - so that our area is made exempt from the reformulated gas mandate. Here's how you can reach them:

U. S. Senator Arlen Specter  
Room 118, U.S. Court House  
Erie, PA 16501  
Phone 453-3010

U.S. Congressman Tom Ridge  
Room 108, U.S. Court House  
Erie, PA 16501  
Phone 456-2038

U. S. Senator Harris Wofford  
Room 107, U.S. Court House  
Erie, PA 16501  
Phone 454-7114

Your help is important! We can win this battle by presenting a solid, unified front determined to reap the benefits for our success in cleaning up our air!

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

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COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGING AND YOUTH  
INSURANCE  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

December 6, 1994

Dear Constituent:

I would like to take the time to address an issue that has gained great public attention in the last several weeks--the Reformulated Gas Program (RFG). I would like to take the opportunity to provide you with some general information and the current status of this issue.

The Federal Reformulated Gas Program identifies and sets federal mandates for areas in the nation that are classified as severe non-attainment. The non-attainment category is what the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) labels those areas with unacceptable air quality. In Pennsylvania, *only the southeast region* is designated as severe non-attainment. Governor Casey chose to "opt in", by executive order, twenty-eight additional counties. This decision was made *without the input of the state legislature or the citizens* of the Commonwealth.

Before the end of the legislative session, a bill (House Bill 666) which attempted to rescind the Governor's "opt in" of the additional twenty-eight counties was passed by the state House and Senate. Governor Casey did sign this bill into law, however, he did not do so until the evening of December 1 even though the passed legislation was sent to him on November 21. Unfortunately, December 1 was the federal deadline for retailers to have RFG in their tanks.

My contacts at EPA inform me that when the governor opted in the additional 28 counties, he gave permission for the Commonwealth to be included in a federally administered program. Once the governor opted in, it became strictly a federal issue. **EPA must take a formal action before the 28 counties may be opted out.** We are now awaiting a decision from EPA to inform us of our obligation under this program.

I truly hope that an effective compromise will be reached on this issue so that the citizens of Pennsylvania may benefit from the admirable intent of programs set forth in the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments. If you have additional questions or need further assistance on this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Thomas Scrimenti  
State Representative

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGING AND YOUTH  
INSURANCE  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS



House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

December 15, 1994

**TO:** Rose Herring

**FROM:** Donna Richards

**RE:** RFG Program

Per Tom's instructions, please keep the attached on file.

Thanks!

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**REP. TOM SCRIMENTI  
MEDIA TALKING POINTS  
RFG PROGRAM**

EPA initially required only the five-county Philadelphia region to be included in the program. In 1991, Casey personally requested that 28 additional counties be included in the mandate. HB 666, which was signed into law Dec. 1, specifically rescinded the mandate, which then had to be approved by the EPA. The EPA approved Casey's request to remove the 28 counties Dec. 12.

▶ I'M VERY PLEASED WITH THE EPA'S  
DECISION TO REVERT TO THE ORIGINAL RFG  
PROGRAM FOR PENNSYLVANIA.

▶ AT THE CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE OF  
AN ADDITIONAL 5 CENTS A GALLON,

PENNSYLVANIANS IN THOSE 28 COUNTIES  
WOULD HAVE PAID AN ADDITIONAL \$290  
MILLION MORE AT THE PUMP. THAT'S MONEY  
BETTER SPENT ON UTILITY BILLS, FOOD AND  
OTHER NECESSITIES.

▶ I'M NOT PLEASED THAT IT TOOK SO  
LONG FOR THIS MATTER TO BE FINALIZED.  
THERE WERE DELAYS AT EVERY STEP IN THE  
PROCESS. THE HOUSE PASSED HOUSE BILL  
666 TO RESCIND THE MANDATE, THE SENATE  
STALLED JUST LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE THE  
GOVERNOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO VETO THE  
BILL, WHICH WE ALL EXPECTED HIM TO DO.  
BUT SURPRISINGLY, HE SIGNED THE BILL THEN

THE EPA TOOK A WEEK AND A HALF TO GET  
AROUND TO APPROVING OUR REQUEST.

▶ DESPITE ALL OF THAT, THE INDUSTRY  
WAS REQUIRED TO HAVE THE FUEL READY TO  
BE SOLD BY DEC. 1. SO MOTORISTS AND  
SERVICE STATIONS ARE STILL GOING TO BE  
PAYING FOR A MORE COSTLY FUEL UNTIL THE  
SUPPLY IS EXPENDED.

▶ WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT THE  
MANDATE WAS RESCINDED, AND ERIE COUNTY  
MOTORISTS ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE PAY FOR  
THE REFORMULATED FUEL.

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

August 15, 2002

Anita Johnson and Friends

Waterford, PA 16441

Dear Concerned Citizens:

Thank you for writing to express your sincere concerns regarding the need to protect our religious rights in America. I agree with you on the importance of this issue, as freedom of religion is one of the essential liberties upon which this country was founded.

Clearly, our constitutional rights have been under attack in recent years. We need to be sure that we never allow God to be removed from the marketplace of ideas, and that we continue to have the freedom to worship God as we choose. It is important that we have the freedom to publicly recognize God in America and to express our patriotism.

I recently supported House Resolution 638, which expresses support for the Pledge of Allegiance and calls upon the United States Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to allow the Pledge of Allegiance to be recited at all public events and in all public institutions. This resolution was adopted unanimously by the House by a 195-0 vote. Please find enclosed a copy of this resolution for your review.

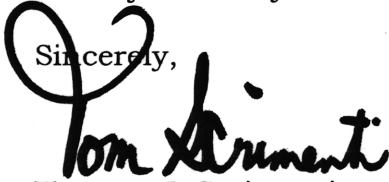
Thank you for writing to express your sincere beliefs. I would encourage you to write to the other public officials who represent you with these concerns, namely your United States Congressman and United States Senators. Their addresses are as follows: Philip S. English, United States House of Representatives, 1410 Longworth House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515; Arlen Specter, United States Senate, 711 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Rick Santorum, United States Senate, 120 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.



Page 2

If I may be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Scrimenti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "T".

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative  
4<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Enclosure

JUL 29 2002

[REDACTED]  
Waterford, PA 16441  
July 25, 2002

Mr. Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative  
House of Representatives  
House Box 202020  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Mr. Scrimenti:

As a group of concerned citizens, we felt compelled to write to you to ask for assistance in protecting our religious rights and to ask for protection for a country we love.

We remember saluting our country's flag and having a moment to pray at school. There used to be such a strong respect for God, family, our country, the president, and others in authority.

Since the removal of prayer in school by Madeline O'Hare and others, there has been a steady increase in divorce and teenage pregnancies, as well as violent crimes and frauds. While President Clinton was in office, there were even sex scandals in the office of the U.S. President.

It's distressing to know that prayer is no longer allowed at football games and other sports events and that many graduation ceremonies are without prayers for its graduates.

This nation is "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." We beg you to support any legislation that would protect our religious rights and oppose any that would take away our religious freedoms. Many men risked their lives in preparing our Declaration of Independence.

We want our children to grow up respecting authority and our country; and without biblical standards and a focus on God and the power of prayer, we are confident that we, as a nation, will experience a steady moral decline.

Please let us know what we can do or to whom we can write to encourage keeping this nation one that trusts in God. It scares us to think of our nation as one not founded in the statement "in God we trust". You can respond to us at the Johnson Residence at the address listed above. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anita Johnson  
Heather Nichols  
Donna Smith  
Rebecca Hertzemater  
Betty Lou Youngwith  
Carol Eby  
Patti Fitzgerald  
Melissa Raydo  
Cherry Ross

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PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

*Mailed 12/10*

December 4, 2002

The Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, STD-SSL  
Bishop of Erie  
Diocese of Erie  
P.O Box 10397  
Erie, PA 16514-0397

Dear Bishop Trautman: - *Don*

Thank you for writing to me urging my support Senate Bill 1421, known as the Religious Freedom Protection Act.

I am pleased to advise you that I voted in favor of this bill in final passage, November 27, 2002. The bill was signed in the Senate, November 27, 2002 and in the House of Representatives, November 28, 2002. It is now in the hands of the Governor, December 2, 2002.

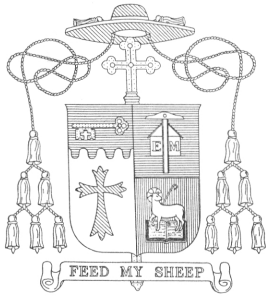
Again, thank you for taking the time to write to me on this important piece of legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Scrimenti".

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

NOV 20 2002



*Diocese of Erie*  
*P.O. Box 10397*  
*Erie, Pennsylvania 16514-0397*

*Office of the Bishop*

November 15, 2002

The Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti  
25B East Wing Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Scrimenti,

*Tom*

I am writing to urge you to support the Religious Freedom Protection Act, Senate Bill 1421. This bill is of great importance to the Diocese of Erie.

This legislation, which has bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, will restore the more stringent judicial test for determining whether the interests of government should supersede the religious interests of an individual or organization. It will, therefore, require, as was the case before, that the government must demonstrate a compelling interest before it can set aside religious freedom. Without the passage of the Religious Freedom Protection Act, the religious community remains vulnerable to requirements that could force individuals as well as institutions to violate strongly-held beliefs.

Religious organizations provide a wide variety of services and ministries solely from their desire to live out their faith. This legislation ensures that they have the freedom to do just that. No citizen should be compelled by force of law to violate his conscience without government demonstrating that there is a compelling interest for doing so. Americans are a freedom loving people who value the diversity upon which this nation is built. This bill is a means of preserving both freedom and diversity.

Recently the American Civil Liberties Union disseminated a written piece linking religious freedom to child abuse. This piece is not only anti-religious but its arguments are completely extraneous to the concept of religious freedom and to what is proposed in the Religious Freedom Protection Act to safeguard this freedom.

Three years ago, when all of the major religious groups in Pennsylvania (The PA Council of Churches, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA, A United Methodist Witness in PA, the PA Jewish Coalition, the Keystone Christian Education Association and the PA Catholic Conference) came together to support the Religious Freedom Protection Act, they never viewed the Act as a means to shield or excuse criminal conduct from rightful punishment. Criminal acts *violate* the religious beliefs of all of these religious groups. No member of these groups could ever claim to be following a religious precept in abusing someone. Since there is no "religious" belief or practice involved in such acts of abuse, the Act's protections are not even brought into effect at all. But even if there *might* be some group that practices ritual abuse, can any responsible person contend that the State has no compelling justification in putting a halt to it?

Even before the ACLU circulated its article linking religious freedom to child abuse, the advocates of the Religious Freedom Protection Act had prepared amendments that would, among

*Diocese of Erie*  
*Office of the Bishop*

-2-

November 15, 2002

The Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti

other things, explicitly provide that there can be no religious excuse for committing a crime against children or for failing to report acts of abuse when required to do so by law. At no time did the Act ever excuse such actions, but now the Act specifically says so.

I would appreciate your support on this important piece of legislation, and I urge you to vote in favor of its approval.

Very truly yours,



The Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, STD, SSL  
Bishop of Erie

DWT/crc

*Voted Yes*

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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

December 26, 1995

Marvin W. Tubbs

Union City, Pa. 16438-1470

Dear Mr. Tubbs, - *Marvin,*

Thank you for your recent letter concerning House Bill 2255, a bill, that if passed, would amend Act 111 of 1968. The bill, introduced by Representative Tigie, is currently in the House Local Government Committee.

The bill, if passed, would amend Act 111 in several ways. As you already know, determinations by the board of arbitration shall be revisable by the Court of Common Pleas within the county in which the dispute arose. House Bill 2255 also requires police officers and firefighters to exert every reasonable effort possible to settle disputes by engaging in collective bargaining in good faith.

In addition to binding arbitration being revisable by the Court Of Common Pleas, there are many other provisions of H.B. 2255. Arbitration panels would be required to consider evidence and make findings in their awards regarding the public employer's ability to pay for any economic aspects of the award, based upon the adverse impact of the following in determining the award: First, the ability of the employer to maintain levels of public service sufficient to serve the municipality. Second, the appropriated amounts of state and federal funding. Third, the amount, if any, of any tax increase and/or additional public funding which would be necessary to fund the economic cost increase. Fourth, an overall wage, salary, and fringe benefits comparison with other public and private sector employees who perform similar tasks, as well as, a comparison of hours and working conditions. Finally, the costs of consumer goods and services within the metropolitan area would also be considered.

I hope you find this information helpful and informative. Before altering Act 111 in such a sweeping and dramatic fashion, I believe we must thoroughly study the effects of the act and its impact on police officers and fire fighters across the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your letter. If my office may be of further assistance on this, or any other legislative manner, please do not hesitate 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 District

TJS/ha

DEC 13 1995

Marvin W. Tubbs

Union City, PA 16438-1470

December 9, 1995

Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti  
House P.O. Box 96  
25B East Wind Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0028

Dear Tom,

I am very disturbed at the legislative action taken by Representative Thomas M. Tigue to literally gut Act 111, The Policemen and Firemen Collective Bargaining Act.

The FOP has never opposed any improvement in wages or benefits for State Employees, whether it be the Governor, his staff, the Legislators, or members of the Judiciary. It is extremely hard to understand why members of the Legislature would want to introduce legislation to take away our rights to bargain for the very same things. With a "binding" arbitration award being subjected to Judicial Review, you will have destroyed the concept of "Binding Arbitration".

I would submit to you, that if members of the legislature want to open, and eventually destroy Act 111, then do away with the act altogether, and give us back our right to strike. I am sure you will recall that the deal made was we gave up our right to strike in return for binding arbitration under Act 111. If in fact we were given back the right to strike, we could then do as the teachers do, and hold the taxpayers of the community hostage until we get what we want. I have to wonder if anyone checked to find out how many police officers are still working at or below the poverty level wage, and this is twenty-seven (27) years after the approval of Act 111.

I respectfully ask that you do not support this legislation, and that Act 111 be left intact. This Act is very important to the police officers, firefighters, and their families in your legislative district as well as across the rest of the Commonwealth. Your cooperation is also important to us and will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Marvin W. Tubbs

cc: Northwestern Chief's of Police Association  
William Tyler Memorial Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police (Erie County)



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• STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG  
June 21, 2002

Mr. Walter Royek

████████████████████  
Corry, PA 16407

Dear Mr. Royek:

Thank you for your recent letter encouraging my support of Senate Bill 1413.

As I am sure you are aware, Senate Bill 1413 amends the Right to Farm Law, by stating that no municipality shall adopt an ordinance or implement a policy that is contrary to that act or any other law of the Commonwealth. Additionally, this proposal states that local regulation shall be consistent with the Right to Farm Act and shall not unfairly discriminate against agricultural operations.

At this writing, Senate Bill 1413 has been re-referred to the House Appropriations Committee, May 7, 2002. While I am not a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I will certainly keep your views in mind when and if this bill comes before the House of Representatives for a vote.

Again, thank you for apprising me of your views on this issue. If I may be of further assistance, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative