

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

August 16, 1995

Ms. Roberta Kuzma
Summit Twp. Tax Collector
8550 Old French Road
Erie, PA 16509

Dear Ms. Kuzma: - *Roberta,*

Thank you for taking the time to write to me regarding House Bill 403 which would provide for Tax Collectors throughout Pennsylvania to have mandatory training and certification each year. I am always interested in hearing the concerns of my constituents and helping in any way that I can.

On January 31st House Bill 403 was referred to the House Local Government Committee where it currently remains. When the House reconvenes this fall you may rest assured I will be closely monitoring its progress as well as voting for its passage.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me on this matter. If I can ever be of any assistance in the future please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Tom
Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

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AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

September 14, 1995

The Honorable George Levin
Judge, Erie County Court
140 W. 6th Street
Erie, PA 16501

Dear Judge Levin:

This letter comes to you to express my support for bringing "order out of chaos" with respect to tax exemption for charitable institutions. I have spent a great deal of time researching and reviewing the underpinnings of this complex issue.

Right now I am interested in your comments concerning the attached Senate Bill 355. Do you think this particular piece of legislation amply addresses the need to "ensure equal and consistent justice for citizens seeking tax exemption?"

I am currently considering legislative strategies that will address the issues raised in your earlier correspondence to me.

In the meantime, I chose thanking you for bringing this important issue to my attention and urging you to stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/djr

enclosure

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House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

October 21, 1997

COMMITTEES

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

Cheryl E. Adams, Publisher/Editor
Senior Citizens News-Views
P.O. Box 3056
Erie, PA 16502

Dear Ms. Adams:

Constituents are calling my district offices confused about the Homestead Property Tax Exemption question that will appear on the ballot Tuesday, Nov. 4. I'd like to explain what this proposal means and what will happen if it is approved.

There are many steps to local tax reform. Approval of the homestead exemption is just the first step and will not result in any immediate changes to your taxes. Despite the confusing language of the question, all this constitutional amendment would do is give the legislature authority to create a local tax reform plan.

After voters approve the homestead exemption, the legislature will develop a local tax reform plan to allow local taxing authorities -- school districts, counties and municipalities -- to exchange a portion of homestead property taxes with other taxes, such as income and/or sales taxes. We want to revise local taxing methods so that more people share the responsibility of paying taxes.

The local tax authorities could change the local system only if they get approval from voters on the local level. Local governments also could not use the new system to drastically increase other taxes. The law includes a provision to ensure that increases in other taxes are equal to cuts in homestead property taxes.

Please note that this plan would cut only *homestead* property taxes. This means that you get a property tax exemption only on the property on which you live. Business, industrial and commercial property are excluded. People have been saying incorrectly that landlords would get huge tax breaks. That's not so -- you must live at the property to get an exemption.

Also, this is not a tax cut or tax increase. Reform would replace property taxes with other taxes. We want to replace a system that unfairly burdens a select group of people with a system in

Also sent to:

- Matthew Hanley, Corry Evening Journal
- Jeff Pinski, Erie Daily Times
- Roger Coda, North East Breeze
- Marnie Oberle, Sunday Times News
- Mary Holt, Times-Leader
- Thomas G. Sanders, Community Affairs Magazine

Cheryl E. Adams, Publisher/Editor
Page 2

which everyone pays their fair share.

This constitutional amendment has check points at all levels to make sure voters have a say in what changes will be made to their local taxes. First, voters must approve the homestead exemption. Then, your representatives in the legislature would pass a plan. Communities then could decide whether or not to participate in reform -- reform would not be mandatory. Then, a voter referendum would be held on the local level to let voters approve the plan their community has selected.

I understand your apprehension, but you must ask yourself if you are happy with the way you are currently taxed. If you are not happy with the existing system, then vote yes for the homestead exemption and let the process take its course. I assure you that you will have ample opportunity to express your opinion about any reform plan that would affect your taxes.

Please call me if you have questions about this constitutional amendment. I also am available to speak to your club or organization.

Sincerely,

Tom Scrimenti
State Representative
4th Legislative District

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HOUSE BOX 202020
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DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CARE AND SERVICES
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

October 22, 2002

Mr. George Frank

[REDACTED]
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Mr. Frank:

-George

Thank you for taking the time to correspond with me on House Bill 1653. This legislation, if enacted, will establish an independent task force, which will be empowered to study the feasibility of implementing a statewide collective bargaining agreement for all public school teachers. The teachers will negotiate with the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth will be responsible for funding the terms of the agreement.

As I am sure you are aware, House Bill 1653 was re-referred to the House Labor Relations Committee May 23, 2001 where it remains. At this time it seems unlikely that either House Bill 1653 or Act 88 will be addressed before the current session ends.

Once again, I appreciate hearing your views on this issue. Please be assured that your thoughts will be remembered and respected. If I can be of further assistance with this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom'.

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

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DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE
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PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

October 20, 1999

Joyce M. Covatto, President
Telatron Marketing Group, Inc.
Boardwalk/1545 West 38 St.
P. O. Box 3368
Erie, PA 16508

Dear Ms. Covatto:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning House Bill 1089. Being that you are a professional in the telemarketing industry, I value your input tremendously. I commend you for taking a proactive stance in this particular matter.

I also appreciate the insight you conveyed pertaining to your company. I am confident that the good people who work for you would have many good things to say about being employed at Telatron. You have given many people in our locale rewards and opportunities that few organizations could offer. The sheer growth of your company speaks volumes about your prowess for leadership.

There can be no doubt the telemarketing industry has had a significant impact on the way we do business not only in Pennsylvania but also throughout the entire country. The convenience of shopping for goods and services via telephone is virtually unmatched. It makes the presentation and sale of an item a most pleasurable and carefree experience for the customer.

House Bill 1089 is currently in the House Committee on Consumer Affairs. At this point in time, there seems to be no significant attention given to this particular bill or any plans to move it. With the light legislative schedule the House Majority has planned for the remainder of this year, I do not foresee, nor would I expect, any further actions on House Bill 1089 in the near future.

If there is anything else that I may do for you with this or any other matter, please feel free to contact my office at your convenience.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

SEP 27 A.M.



Telatron Marketing Group, Inc. Boardwalk/1545 West 38th St./P.O. Box 3368/Erie, PA 16508 / (814) 868-4824
FAX / (814) 864-3194

September 21, 1999

Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti
House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
25B East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

Recently, House Bill No. 1089 was introduced in the State House of Representative and among its other provisions, the bill calls for a State run "Do Not Call List." As one of the leading employers in Erie County, I felt it important to inform you of our position in relation to this matter.

To begin with, I think it is necessary for you to know a little about our company. Telatron Marketing Group, Inc. has been involved in the telecommunications industry for over 14 years and is the proud home of 1-800 VISITPA. Currently, we employ over 700 employees from Erie and the surrounding areas and provide them with Health Insurance, Life Insurance, Sick Pay, Vacation and Holiday Pay, Paid Training Programs, and compensation that is well above the minimum wage. Add to this list the exciting news that we are about to begin construction on a state-of-art Day Care Center for our employees, and the fact that these benefits are available to both full and part-time employees, and you have one of the best benefit packages in Erie County, if not the state.

We are also proud of the diversity of our employee pool. We employ graduates from all of the local colleges and universities including Gannon University, Edinboro University, Mercyhurst College, Penn State University, and Behrend College. We also employ a significant number of minorities, single parents, and individuals whom Telatron was able to help off of the welfare rolls. More important than mere employment however, is the fact that we offer all of our employees an opportunity for advancement. Employment with Telatron is by no means a minimum wage, dead-end job.

Our ability to provide our employees with such great opportunities is in direct proportion to the success that we have achieved in the industry. The telemarkeing industry itself has grown by leaps and bounds over the past decade, a fact evidenced by the over 189,000 individuals employed in the industry in Pennsylvania alone. Even more astonishing is that the telemarketing industry is a billion dollar business with an industry job growth rate that is three (3) times that of

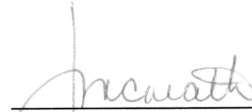
the national job growth average. Additionally, nearly 100 million Americans (one out of three) purchase goods and services over the phone each year. These statistics are staggering and lend credence to the fact that with such high numbers, someone out there must be taking advantage of telemarketing and the services the industry offers.

As I am sure you are aware, the telemarketing industry is already regulated nationwide in the exact manner that this bill proposes. Both the Federal Communications Commission's rules implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and the Federal Trade Commission's Telemarketing Sales Rule operate to require companies to keep specific "Do Not Call Lists" of those individuals who have requested not to receive any further telemarketing calls from that company at no cost to the consumer. House Bill No. 1089 would provide no added protection to consumers and would effect only those telemarketers who already conduct their business legitimately.

As a leader in the telemarketing industry in Pennsylvania, Telatron is not by any means opposed to regulation of the industry, however, regulation should be aimed at achieving the goal of providing consumers with added protection from fraudulent and abusive telemarketers. This legislation would not provide any such benefit as the problem it addresses has already been identified and remedied by federal legislation. Surely if consumer protection is the goal, resources could be better used elsewhere.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter, and I would like to invite you to visit our facilities so you may have the opportunity to see first hand, the quality of our operations.

Sincerely,



Joyce M. Covatto
President