

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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□ 9 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA 16407
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□ 25B, EAST WING
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HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

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

Accepted 9-11

Mr. Craig Cunningham, Owner
Cunningham Custom Builders, Inc.
Cranberry Place
1154 W. 8th Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16502

Dear Mr. Cunningham: - *Craig*

Thank you for your correspondence in support of House Bill 1128, which would provide a uniform statewide building code. I certainly agree with your observation that housing consumers should be protected from contractors who build to substandard practices in areas where an inadequate or no local building code exists.

As you may be aware, House Bill 1128 is one of several proposals before the General Assembly that would establish a statewide building code. House Bills 1531 and 1714 would establish the Building Officials and Code Administrators' guidelines as a mandatory minimum statewide building code for all structures. Municipal ordinances would be allowed to remain in effect. House Bill 1714 would also require a public review process to uphold existing ordinances. These statewide building code proposals attest to the importance of this issue, which will very likely be debated in the General Assembly this session. Your correspondence about the need for a statewide building code is very compelling. I certainly will familiarize myself with this issue and take your position into strong consideration should House Bill 1128 or any of the other building code bills come to a vote in the House this session.

Once again, thank you for your correspondence in support of House Bill 1128. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the future regarding this legislation or any other issue of importance to you.

Sincerely,

Tom
Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

AUG 28 1995

cunningham
custom
builders
inc.



August 19, 1995

Honorable Thomas Scrimenti
House of Representatives
25B East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0028

Cranberry Place
1154 W. 8th Street
Erie, PA 16502
(814) 455-7501

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

House bill 1128, prime sponsors Representatives Mike Waugh and Ron Buxton, will establish a uniform statewide building code for Pennsylvania. This is an important piece of legislation for the housing consumers of the Commonwealth, and it is legislation that the House of Representatives will address this fall.

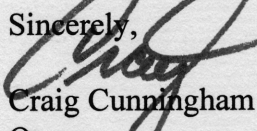
A uniform statewide construction code law will protect housing consumers in the many areas of Pennsylvania that currently have no building codes from those contractors who build to sub-standard practices. In those areas, the legislation is designed to give the maximum protection possible to those Pennsylvanians without burdening rural municipalities through any unfunded enforcement mandates.

House bill 1128 is also designed to protect housing consumers in those municipalities in the state which have inadequate building codes because they are antiquated and not up to the latest standards of nationally recognized model construction codes, or because they are either not enforced or enforced by building code inspectors who have little or no training and who are unable to give the housing consumer the protection to which he is entitled.

Thirdly, this legislation is designed to protect housing consumers in those few municipalities in Pennsylvania who have mistakenly or deliberately enacted building code ordinances which exceed nationally recognized standards, to the extent they punish the home buyer by unnecessarily increasing the cost of new home construction.

A uniform statewide building code based on a nationally recognized standard, the BOCA 1993 building code, will, for the first time, bring an important measure of protection to all housing consumers.

Although the House of Representatives will not be in session for another six weeks, I urge you to familiarize yourself with this legislation. I would be pleased to discuss this issue with you - to answer any of your questions or to provide you with any further information.

Sincerely,

Craig Cunningham
Owner

*Please give me a call
sometime in the near future
to discuss*

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

December 4, 1998

Mr. Roy D. Thomson, Supervisor/Secretary
North East Township
10300 West Main Road, P. O. Box 249
North East, PA 16428

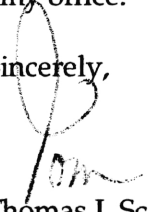
Dear Mr. Thomson: - Roy

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the passage of a statewide uniform building code. I appreciate hearing your thoughts on this issue.

It may interest and please you to know that this legislation, House Bill 1173, is essentially defunct. It did, in fact, pass the House of Representatives, but upon introduction in the Senate, no further legislative action was taken. In order for any action to take place, this bill would have to be reintroduced next session, thereby beginning the legislative process all over.

Please know that your voice has been heard and I will keep your thoughts in mind if, and when, this legislation comes before the House in the future. Should there be anything else I may do for you, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

Mailed 12-8-98 N.E.

[Sample]

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COMMITTEES

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

June 21, 1999

Joe Wasiulewski
North East Post Office
31 W. Main Street
North East, PA 16428

Dear Postmaster Wasiulewski:

Thank you for writing to me about your objections to Representative Ronald Raymond's HR 190, a measure highly critical of the United States Postal Service. While phrases like "creating a level playing field" may sound altruistic and sensible, elected officials must keep in mind the differing aims of government service and private enterprise, making sure that service to the public is not sacrificed to favor private gain.

Not only does the Postal Service do a superb job of handling billions of pieces of mail each and every day – and more on Mother's Day and Christmas – but it also does it inexpensively and efficiently. Further, as an employer, the Postal Service sets a high standard and example throughout the state in the pay and benefits it extends to its workforce.

That being said, I will certainly examine this issue in-depth, and you may be sure that I will keep your concerns in mind when this resolution arises for debate before the full House of Representatives. Again, thank you for taking the time to write. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time to discuss this or any other legislative issue of interest to you.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

TJS/hfn

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

August 1, 1991

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
SECRETARY
AGING & YOUTH
INSURANCE
POLICY

Mr. Harold H. Hinkler

North East, Pennsylvania 16428

Dear Mr. Hinkler: - Harold,

This is to inform you that I communicated your position to the Consumer Affairs Committee and have been informed that the Committee is not planning to consider House Bill 1032 (Used Car Lemon Law) at this time.

If I can be of further assistance or provide you with any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/js

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
SECRETARY
AGING & YOUTH
INSURANCE
POLICY

January 26, 1993

Andy Hadzega

North East, PA 16428

Dear Mr. Hadzega: - *Andy*

Regarding correspondence you sent to my office expressing concerns about the Public Utility Commission, both voters and representatives will have to work diligently to resolve issues. The cost of utilities has skyrocketed over the past few years and I am truly concerned with helping to contain cost at affordable prices.

I have contacted several organizations, as well as the Public Utility Commission regarding your concerns. The PUC holds public hearings in efforts to consider the opinion of the public, especially in matters regarding a rate increase. The PUC also has a formal compliant process. It has been rare for a utility to receive the percentage of rate increase proposed. Costs have been maintained to some degree by public hearing process. As you may be aware, the utilities are required to submit lengthy, detailed paperwork justifying the necessity of the proposed rate increase. The PUC considers these documents carefully. The recession and national economic conditions are a factor in the current cost. But, as you state in your correspondence, costs are not affordable for far too many people. Working toward affordable utilities is a priority for me in this legislative session.

In contacting the Office of Consumer Advocates, we have found that they will investigate complaints against individual companies. If you or anyone you know has a particular complaint, please contact the following:

Office of Consumer Advocates
1425 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717)783-5048
Att: Susan Henry, Investigator


There is a group in Philadelphia called The Consumer Education Protection Agency (CEPA). This group has done a lot of lobbying and

advocacy in Philadelphia around the high cost of utilities. They recently succeeded in stopping the proposed water rate increase. I was unable to find a similar group in other counties, but CEPA is more than willing to share information with you. Please feel free to contact them at the following address:

Consumer Education Protection Agency
6048 Orgontz Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19141
(215)424-1441
Att: Lance Hafer

I am enclosing some additional information as to how the PUC operates. This information may be of some use in helping to determine how we can possibly better utilize the PUC process. Again, I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention. If I can be of further assistance to you, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

TJS/rjd
enclosure

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

December 6, 1993

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGING AND YOUTH
INSURANCE
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

Mr. Richard Burrows

Elgin, PA 16413

Dear Mr. Burrows:

Thank you for your recent correspondence concerning the selection process of members of the Public Utility Commission (PUC). I certainly share your concern about the PUC's lack of public accountability. In fact, last session I sponsored legislation (House Bill 1922) which would have changed the PUC into an elected body.

Under this proposal, the Commonwealth would have been divided into five districts approximately equal in population. Each of these districts would then elect a member to the PUC. I believe that this legislation would have resulted in increased public pressure on the PUC and thus compelled the Commissioners to keep rates down. However, as you are well aware, House Bill 1922 did not become law.

On the other hand, I am sure that you are well aware of the potential pitfalls of electing PUC Commissioners. The need for campaign funds to win election to this body may actually result in greater influence on the PUC by special interest. Also, we cannot be sure that many of the same problems which are driving public opinion toward merit selection of judges will not occur if we elect PUC Commissioners.

Thus, because there are problems inherent in both methods of selection (appointment and election), there has not been a great push, either from the public or from my colleagues in the General Assembly, to make the PUC an elected body. Please be assured, Mr. Burrows, that I share your belief some public control is better than no public control and that direct election of PUC Commissions will focus the public's attention on the actions of the PUC. This, of course, will result in a greater voice for the public in PUC decisions.

Again, thank you for your suggestion. I will definitely give strong consideration to your proposal and share your ideas with my colleagues. 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,


Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/js

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGING AND YOUTH
INSURANCE
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

February 22, 1994

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Mr. Joe Laukaitis

[REDACTED]
Erie, PA 16511

Dear Mr. Laukaitis:

As a state representative and a consumer, I share your concerns about the sharp rise in the cost of utilities over the past few years. I have undertaken some investigation on your behalf to find out why National Fuel and Gas (NFG) has raised its price recently.

I first contacted the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to see why the last rate increase was granted. I learned that on November 10, 1993, the PUC approved a new rate increase for NFG that amounted to about a 4.9 percent increase in the basic rate. This rate increase covered the operating (non-gas) costs for the company. This decision also allowed the company to recover costs that are incurred due to the restructuring of the interstate natural gas pipeline industry by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). FERC's position is that this restructuring of the industry will lead to a more competitive gas market that in the long run will lead to an overall lower natural gas cost. Unfortunately, this has led to higher gas prices for the utilities and ultimately is passed on to the consumer.

I next contacted NFG directly and spoke to them about these rate increases. They explained future rate increases basically the same way as the PUC. FERC's restructuring has increased the price they must pay for gas. In addition, the new regulations force the company to pay the pipelines to transport it. The price of natural gas, which by law is passed on by utilities directly to customers without profit or markup, has exceeded earlier projections and according to company officials. NFG is actually under-collecting from its customers. Therefore, the company plans to ask for another rate increase request August 1, 1994.

As was the case with the past increase, the PUC holds public hearings to allow the concerns of both consumers and utilities to be heard. The PUC also has a formal complaint process where consumers can be heard at these meetings. Further, the PUC also requires utilities to submit detailed paperwork to justify the proposed rate increase.

Mr. Joe Laikaitis
February 22, 1994
Page 2

The best way for consumers, such as yourself, to hold down utility rates is to address your complaints and concerns directly to the PUC (1-800-782-1110). The PUC has an informal and formal method to lodge complaints about utilities. In addition, you might want to contact the Office of Consumer Advocate. This office will investigate complaints against individual companies. This office can be contacted at the following address:

Office of Consumer Advocate
1425 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 783-5048

I hope that this explanation addresses some of your concerns about utility rate increases. Please be assured that establishing sensible utility rates is on my priority list for this legislative session. If consumers and legislators work together, they can make sure that consumer concerns will be a powerful weapon in PUC meetings that are held to deal with rate increases.

Again, thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. If I can be of any further assistance to you on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/js

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

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

March 13, 1996

Lonnie L. Jantzi, Corporate Secretary/Treasurer
FRALO Industries Incorporated
2320 Warfel Avenue
Erie, Pa. 16503

Dear Mr. Jantzi:

I have received and read your recent complaint of National Fuel Gas Distribution Company's decision to invoke a twenty-five dollar penalty on gas transportation users. I hope that you will continue to contact me with your comments and concerns.

In response to your request, I contacted the Erie office of the National Fuel Gas Distribution Company. I was informed by this office that the twenty-five dollar penalty fee imposed pertains only to transportation users. This penalty was instituted because of the extreme cold weather and the amount of unauthorized overruns by outside gas suppliers. As you are probably aware, companies need to nominate the amount of gas to be used by customers; when the companies do not nominate the proper amount of gas, the customer then relies on the gas provided by the National Fuel Gas Distribution Company. I was also informed by this office that this fee is probably only being imposed for the month of March. There was no mention of this penalty fee continuously being imposed in the future.

I appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you. I hope this information is useful. If I can be of further assistance on this matter, or any other matter of personal or professional importance, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Tom Scrimenti in cursive.
Tom Scrimenti
State Representative

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

September 16, 1996

COMMITTEES

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

James R. Batten

[REDACTED]
Erie, PA 16511-1336

Dear Mr. Batten:

Thank you very much for your recent letter regarding National Fuel's quarterly profits. I certainly understand and share your concern about excessive utility rates and the ever-increasing cost of life's necessities.

Consumers themselves hold the key to holding down utility rates, but they need to be proactive in taking their concerns directly to the Public Utility Commission (PUC). The PUC has both a formal and an informal method to lodge complaints about utilities. Please find a description of the complaint process enclosed for your perusal. I wholeheartedly encourage you to use this process to immediately voice your concerns, because once an increase is approved, the burden of proof switches from the utility to the complainant.

As you know, the escalating cost of utilities makes it increasingly difficult for people to afford necessities like heat, water, and electricity. Please be assured that one of my constant priorities is to work toward sensible utility rates. By working together, consumers and legislators can ensure that public concerns will be a powerful weapon in the PUC decision-making process.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your concerns. If I can be of further assistance on this or any other issue in the future, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Thomas J. Scrimenti.
Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

TJS:wdm
Enclosure

mailed 9/20

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

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

January 28, 1997

William R. Steiner

Oil City, PA 16301

Dear Mr. Steiner: -- *Bill,*

Thank you very much for your recent letter regarding rising public utility rates. I certainly concur with your notion of how increases of this kind can impact the average ratepayer. During my last term, I sponsored legislation which would require the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to take into account the affordability of rate increases as an essential aspect of its review process. I plan to re-introduce that measure during the 1997-98 legislative session. Last session, my bill (House Bill 1743) remained confined to the Consumer Affairs Committee without being afforded a public hearing of any kind. I am hopeful, however, that the new chairman of that committee will see the merits of my bill, and act accordingly.

The legislation itself would require public utilities to prove that any rate increase request is affordable. Current law already requires that the increase be proved "just and reasonable." Considering the healthy profits of utilities in recent years, I have a difficult time reconciling their claims of increased costs and industry restructuring as an honest justification for rate increases. The consumer's dilemma, meanwhile, is very basic: Do I purchase food for my family or do I pay my utility bills? Can I make mortgage payments on my house without compromising my ability to provide heat for it?

My measure would define affordable as "allowing customers to pay their utility bills while maintaining an acceptable standard of living, taking into consideration the financial circumstances of customers and the community as indicated by factors such as household income, age, family size, climate and other factors bearing upon the cost of living in that particular community." Although consumers have a say in rate increases, I question whether the PUC adequately considers what some consumers face in light of constant rate increases. Therefore, if public utilities cannot deal with this problem, then the Legislature must take action.


COPY

Mr. Steiner
Page 2
January 28, 1997

You can be sure that I will continue to vigorously pursue this initiative. I would be grateful, too, for any direct interaction that you and other interested parties might bring to this process. Should you wish to contact the incoming chairman of the Consumers Affairs Committee about this matter, Representative Chris Wogan's address is PA House of Representatives, House Box 202020, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020.

Thank you again for your interest in this important matter. Please feel free to contact my office at any time.

Sincerely yours,


Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

TJS:wdm

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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

March 12, 2001

Mr. Paul Gregor
[REDACTED]
Union City, PA 16438

Dear Mr. Gregor:

Thank you for sharing your concerns with me regarding the high cost of heating fuel.

My colleagues and I found natural gas prices to be an incredible problem this winter, particularly for seniors who are living with fixed incomes. I understand that the rising cost of heating fuel followed a national trend. An erratically cold winter, such as we have had this season, put additional stress on Pennsylvanians to find resources in order to keep their families warm. I think it is necessary as a state, and as a nation, that we be consistently better prepared in the future.

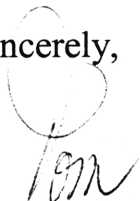
While the deadline extension of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for funding provided some relief to seniors and low-income families this winter, I believe a long-term solution is necessary. That is why I co-sponsored House Resolution 33, which is a resolution memorializing the Congress of the United States to investigate the causes and effects of the recent surge in natural gas prices in Pennsylvania and across the country.

Furthermore, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission offers some energy assistance tips that you might find useful. The local electric or natural gas company may call them by different names, but each company has the following programs listed below:

- **Budget Billing.** All residential customers may contact their electric or natural gas company and request budget billing at any time. Each monthly bill will be the same amount. The company may adjust the bill four times a year, up or down, depending on the customer's usage.
- **Customer Assistance Program (CAP).** CAPs can lower your monthly utility bill. CAPs names are shown beside the company names below. The company works with the customer to determine what the customer can pay versus the cost of energy used.
- **Customer Assistance Referral and Evaluation Program (CARES).** The CARES program helps customers with special needs. CARES may help you find ways to pay your utility bill. For example, special needs are customers who are experiencing family emergencies, divorce, unemployment, or medical emergencies.
- **Low-Income Usage Reduction Program (LIURP).** LIURP helps low-income residential customers lower the amount of electricity or natural gas used each month. Typically, the company may install energy saving features in your home to help reduce bills. For example, smaller bills means your payment covers a greater portion, or perhaps covers the whole bill.

Once again, thank you for sharing your concerns with me. I hope that this information proves useful to you and the other members of the Senior Center. If you need further assistance, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Thomas Scrimenti
State Representative

TS/jvb

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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December 10, 2003



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS
DEMOCRATIC VICE CHAIRMAN

Michael D. Tirpak
General Manager & CEO
The Northwestern Rural Electric
Co-operative Association, Inc.
22534 State Hwy. 86, P.O. Box 207
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-0207

Dear Mr. Tirpak: - *Mike*

Thank you for your recent letter regarding legislation reauthorizing Chapter 30 of Title 66.

As you know, a law enacted in 1993 established a schedule for deployment of the broadband network and granted telephone companies involved in the deployment an alternative form of regulation by the Public Utility Commission. Those provisions, known as Chapter 30, call for complete statewide deployment by 2015, but the law itself is set to expire December 31 due to a sunset provision.

House Bill 30, House Bill 1669, and House Bill 2233 all reauthorize Chapter 30, as do Senate Bill 30, Senate Bill 677, and Senate Bill 900. House Bill 30 and Senate Bill 677 were both amended and passed by their respective chambers last month. Since then, however, neither chamber has appeared willing to act on the other body's Chapter 30 legislation. Last week, House Democratic Whip Mike Veon implored the House to pass either House Bill 2233 or Senate Bill 677 in order to honor the December 31 deadline (both measures extend the expiration of Chapter 30 by one year).

This call to action by the Minority Whip followed signals that the issue would not be considered again in the Senate before the end of the year. Given the multitude of other pressing matters (a final budget for the current fiscal year, education reform, gaming expansion, etc.), the General Assembly may be hard-pressed to sort out the myriad issues surrounding Chapter 30 reauthorization before December 31. Consequently, I believe there is some merit to Representative Veon's appeal.

Again, thank you for your letter concerning the issue of Chapter 30 reauthorization. Please be assured that I will remember and respect your concerns whenever this issue is before me. If I may be of further assistance with this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti
Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative
4th Legislative District

Happy Holidays!



The Northwestern Rural Electric Co-operative Association, Inc.

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November 10, 2003

13 NOV 2003

Representative Thomas Scrimenti
9 West Main Street
North East, PA 16428

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

As the General Manager & CEO for Northwestern Rural Electric Co-operative Association, Inc. (Northwestern REC), I am asking you to support Chapter 30 legislation that will help achieve 100 percent deployment of advanced telecommunications services throughout all of Pennsylvania and empowers local communities to determine their own timetable for these services.

Any new Chapter 30 reauthorization should include:

- Consumer protections that help to guarantee that rural services are similar to those in urban and suburban Pennsylvania.
- An economic development fund that will allow rural communities and entities to aggregate, educate, and create the markets that will be viable for advanced services to reach their area.
- An enhanced consumer request program that will, in conjunction with the creation of an economic development fund, allow consumers to aggregate demand and receive service at a cost effective and reasonable rate. If a reasonable rate cannot be offered, consumers should not be mandated to take the service.
- Competitive fixes that will help enable a competitive local market to flourish in Pennsylvania.

Rural electric cooperatives were created to answer a need for service, and that is why we are so interested in this issue today. Your vote is critical in ensuring that the quality of life that Pennsylvania's rural communities enjoy is not jeopardized by an anti-competition and anti-consumer bill.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure the quality of life for rural communities. I look forward to hearing from you soon on this issue. If my staff or I can provide you with further information concerning rural electric issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Tirpak
General Manager & CEO

MDT:mlg