



file

900 South Arlington Ave./Room 100/Harrisburg, PA 17109-5089 • 717/545-4761

Office for Social Ministry

The Rev. Paul D. Gehris, D.Min., Director

TO: Honorable Members - House of Representatives

FROM: Pennsylvania Council of Churches *Pg*

RE: H.B. 2 - P.N. 927
Minimum Wage

DATE: June 23, 1989

The Pennsylvania Council of Churches urges a positive vote on House Bill 2 which would, among other provisions, increase the minimum wage in Pennsylvania.

We believe this to be a matter of economic justice for workers who are paid at minimum wage. Even with the increase in PA, effective February of this year, persons working for minimum wage need further increases to catch up to the basic cost of living.

Until our federal policy makers resolve the issue of minimum wage in a fair manner, we believe PA policy makers should protect our workers.

To this end we urge your support for House Bill 2.

ac

JUN 27 1989

TO: PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FROM: TOM WEYANT, CAE, PRESIDENT, PENNSYLVANIA RETAILERS' ASSOCIATION *Jm*

SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL 2 AND HOUSE BILL 828

H.B. 2 which increases the minimum wage in Pennsylvania by 15% in 1990 and by another 10% in 1991 would create economic chaos in one of several ways:

- (1) Retailers will find ways to employ fewer people, or
- (2) Retailers will find ways to reduce other employee benefits, or
- (3) Retailers will raise prices to cover added labor expenses.

Any one or a combination of all three of these results in an economic disturbance which does not benefit anyone. President Bush recently vetoed similar legislation because he agrees with this assessment of the outcome of an increased minimum wage.

On behalf of over 1300 retailers in PA operating over 6000 stores and employing over 500,000 persons, who belong to our Association, we ask you to consider our position and **vote NO** on H.B. 2.

We are well aware of the argument that there are primary wage earners who truly earn below the poverty level while working full time at the current minimum wage. H.B. 828, known as the Minimum Income Act, provides an alternative to increasing the minimum wage. This proposal allows low wage workers with dependents to receive an income supplement administered by the PA Department of Revenue. The Federal government has been offering such a plan for some time now and it puts the necessary help where it belongs without creating an economic crisis.

The retail industry has been at the heart of new job creation which has helped economic development in our Commonwealth. We collect and remit the largest portion of the states revenue through sales taxes. We are also one of the most competitive of businesses while remaining one of the lowest profit producers in comparison to other industries. Please do not tamper with the delicate balance in the retail marketplace by increasing minimum wages by 25% over the next 2 years.

TW:jcb

POLITICS IS UNION BUSINESS



SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION AFL-CIO, CLC

PENNSYLVANIA STATE COUNCIL

1037 Maclay Street • Harrisburg, PA 17103 • (717) 234-4113 • 1 (800) 932-0368

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file
H.B. 2
Minimum
WAGE

June 27, 1989

TO MEMBERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RE: H.B. 2
Minimum Wage

Dear Representative:

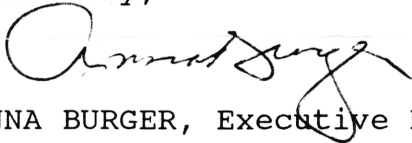
We are writing to urge your strong support for H.B. 2 the minimum wage bill.

Through the support of the General Assembly last session we took the first step towards a living wage. We all recognize that a thirty five cent increase is insufficient. In order to restore the 1981 value of the minimum wage it should be increased to \$5.05 per hour.

Full time workers deserve a living wage. The current wage falls below the poverty level for a family of three and should not be tolerated.

We urge that you act now and support H.B. 2. We can no longer wait for federal action.

Sincerely,



ANNA BURGER, Executive Director

AB:cw

JUN 29 1989

mailed 3/20

minimum wage

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

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

March 14, 2002

David Hinz II



Wattsburg, PA 16442

Dear Mr. Hinz:

Thank you for taking the time to contact my office and alert me of your concerns with regards to the minimum wage in Pennsylvania. I appreciate hearing about those issues that are of importance to my constituents, and being of service whenever possible.

As a state representative, I am interested in the views of all of my constituents. In formulating my positions, I take into account how legislation may affect all of the citizens in my legislative district. While your claims against increasing the minimum wage are of valid concern, I regrettably cannot agree because of the interests of the majority of my constituents and the residents of our Commonwealth. At this writing, I support an increase in the minimum wage in Pennsylvania as part of an economic package to boost our economy.

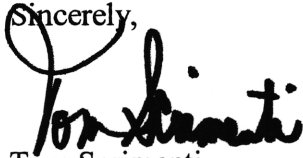
As proven by my record of service, I am passionate about the welfare of my constituents. The economy in Pennsylvania is enduring some drastic changes, leaving our state's economic growth rate ranked 43rd among the states. For that reason, I believe we need to act on a new approach towards the success of this Commonwealth. With that in mind, I believe that increasing our state's minimum wage will stimulate our economy and disperse increased value and worth into our minimum wage employees.

According to the most recent available statistics, 40% of minimum wage employees are the primary breadwinners in their family, while two-thirds of the minimum wage employees are women. Additionally, according to the most recent available data, a full-time minimum wage worker earns \$10,712 a year, which is nearly \$7,000 below the 2001 federal poverty guideline for a family of four, and almost \$4,000 below the poverty line for a family of three. These are devastating statistics that may potentially undermine the value of work and the strong Pennsylvania work ethic.

Mr. David Hinz II
Page 2

Again, thank you for contacting my office and alerting me of your position on an increase in the minimum wage. I recognize your concerns. If I can be of further assistance with this or any other state-related matter, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Scrimenti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and a distinct "S".

Tom Scrimenti
State Representative
4th Legislative District

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

HARRISBURG

October 13, 1999

COMMITTEES

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

Richard A. House
C.E.O.
Polymer Molding, Inc.
1655 West 20th Street
Erie, PA 16502-2192

Dear Mr. House:

Thank you for contacting me and expressing your views on House Bill 1735, which would exempt the sale of molds and related mold products from the Pennsylvania sales and use tax. This bill was introduced on June 21, 1999 and is currently in the House Finance Committee for further study. I can certainly understand your position on this important legislation. I have heard from many others in your industry on this very matter. As a co-sponsor of this legislation, I am pleased to know that those in the industry have so overwhelmingly supported this bill.

Those in business know that Pennsylvania state government has become more "business-friendly" during the past several years. We have seen a new willingness for government to work in concert with business. The results have been quite positive. It is my fervent hope to keep the lines of communication open between government and industry and to keep the economy of the Commonwealth on the right track. House Bill 1735 would serve to strengthen our plastic mold industry by curtailing a severe and unnecessary tax burden. We must work together to keep Pennsylvania competitive with other states.

Again, thank you for contacting me and expressing your support on this legislation. Please know that your views, whether representing the business or personal matters, are always welcome.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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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

August 17, 1999

Ms. Diane Bowes
Tooling Components, Inc.
8349 West High Street
Union City, PA 16438

Dear Ms. Bowes:

I would like to thank you for your recent letter to my office regarding legislation that would, in part, exclude tax on plastics molds. I always appreciate being apprised of those important issues that professionally and personally affect my constituents.

I, too, am concerned with how the tax levy on plastics will critically impact the industry in my district and across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As you know, Representative Karl Boyes has recently introduced legislation that would eliminate a tax on the sale at retail or use of molds and related mold equipment used directly in the manufacture of plastics products. This legislation, House Bill 1735, which I cosponsored, was referred to the House Finance Committee on June 21, 1999.

Although I was unable to attend the hearing held on July 7th at Penn State-Behrend to discuss the need for HB 1735, I've been advised that the testimony given was most informative. I'm certain that it will be of great value in the legislative process as the Committee continues to solicit input concerning this issue during the next few months. As indicated by Rep. Boyes, another hearing regarding HB 1735 is planned for September 14th in Harrisburg.

I would also like to suggest, as another approach, that interested parties have the option of appealing directly to Governor Ridge regarding this new interpretation of the Tax Reform Code of 1971. In contrast to his administration's continual advocacy for a business-friendly environment, this is the first time that the law has been interpreted to apply to the sale and use of molds.

Please be assured of my sincere interest in this issue; I am well aware of how HB 1735 could impact Erie County's plastics industry and its customers. It is important for each of us to be active in our community and the issues that surround our region. I look forward to working together as we join our efforts and work as a team for the people of Erie County.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

APR 27 1992

Corry Area High School
534 East Pleasant Street
Corry, PA 16407
April 23, 1992

Representative Tom Scrimenti
State Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Representative Scrimenti;

My seventh grade Social Studies classes have been preparing for Earth Day, April 22, 1992, for several weeks. We have been studying and discussing several environmental issues such as recycling, pollution, greenhouse gasses, ozone depletion, hazardous waste, acid rain, vanishing wildlife and groundwater pollution.

We did this in conjunction with the other seventh grade teachers as a cross-the-curriculum project with each teacher participating with his/her own project. Our final activity was an Earth Day program with several local dignitaries invited to participate.

As my part in this project, each class chose to write to one member of Congress expressing some of his or her environmental concerns. This class chose to write to you. I am trying to convince them that it is their duty to take an active part in government. Also, they are not too young to start becoming a part of the democratic process.

Each group is anxiously awaiting responses from their chosen congressman. I would appreciate any comments you might care to make to them regarding your personal concerns.

Thank you very much,
Charlene L. Meerhoff

Charlene L. Meerhoff

Social Studies Teacher

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
SECRETARY
AGING & YOUTH
INSURANCE
POLICY

May 5, 1992

Ms. Charlene L. Meerhoff
Social Studies Teacher
Corry Area High School
534 East Pleasant Street
Corry, PA 16407

Dear Ms. Meerhoff and Class:

Thank you all for your letters concerning the environment. It always pleases me to know that young people care about these issues, and that our educational system is promoting good citizenship and responsible stewardship of the earth.

While I would truly like to address every issue each of you asked about, I will limit my response to those which seemed to me to be the most prevalent in your letters: alternative fuels; clean air; and expanding our recycling program.

Alternative Fuels

At this time, the General Assembly is considering two different proposals which would help promote the use of alternative fuels. If successful in both the House and Senate, and signed by the Governor, House Bill 1207, printer's number 1381, will allow for the acquisition of vehicles which operate on alternative fuels so that the Pennsylvania Energy Office can study how well they work. This bill was referred to the House Transportation Committee and is still waiting for consideration.

The second proposal, House Bill 2271, printer's number 2869, would provide grants to individuals, political subdivisions, school districts and municipal authorities, to retrofit vehicles so that they could run on alternative fuels. Converting a vehicle from running on gasoline to an alternative fuel is expensive; if enacted, this grant would pay for 20% of that cost, creating a great incentive to make the switch. I have enclosed a copy of this legislation for your review.

Ms. Charlene L. Meerhoff and Class
Page Two
May 5, 1992

Clean Air

By now, you may have heard about the 1990 amendments to the Federal Clean Air Act or CAAA. These new amendments impact every state in the nation, and will help reduce airborne pollutants substantially. For example, by November 1, 1992, all states must begin to implement an expanded auto-emission inspection program, and if we don't, we risk losing \$934 million a year in federal funding which helps us build highways.

In Pennsylvania, we have only 11 counties where testing auto-emissions is required - but because of CAAA, about 33 counties will have to begin testing. This testing program will help clean the air by creating tailpipe emissions standards. If a car doesn't pass, the owner of the vehicle will have to have the engine tuned-up so that it burns cleaner and doesn't pollute as much. This is only one part of CAAA. We are also going to make it tougher for factories that pollute to get permits to operate, and we are going to penalize them for every ton of pollution they emit. Furthermore, we are going to make gasoline stations install equipment that prevents ozone depleting substances from escaping into the atmosphere, and we are going to require that they sell fuels that burn cleaner.

Recycling

Expanding recycling programs depends greatly on our ability to develop markets for recyclable materials; we need to make what we collect valuable. In addition to expanding the number of items currently recycled, emphasis should be placed on establishing incentives for individuals, businesses, and governments to use recycled materials.

As a way of leading by example, legislation has been introduced in the House that would require the Department of General Services, Commonwealth agencies, political subdivisions, and local school districts to purchase postconsumer office paper. House Bill 1340, printer's number 1543, is now before the House Appropriations Committee.

Regarding the recycling of plastics, municipalities have often complained that it cost too much to sort and transport plastics, and that the end market was weak, but that is changing rapidly. In fact,

Ms. Charlene L. Meerhoff and Class
Page Three
May 5, 1992

the plastic used in soda bottles (polyethylene terephthalate) was actually in demand in 1990; 225 million pounds was recycled nationally, with the estimated demand at around 500 million pounds. Here in Pennsylvania, we have at least two plants that recycle soda bottles, Gramham Packaging in York, and St. Jude Polymer in Frackville. There is even a company in Upland, PA (Duraplast Corp.) that has started making synthetic lumber using a manufacturing process which utilizes mixed plastics. For your information, I have enclosed several Fact Sheets, which are published by the Department of Environmental Resources.

Ms. Meerhoff, I hope these materials give you and your class an idea of what we are doing at the state level to improve the environment. Please don't hesitate to contact my office again if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Tom Scrimenti
State Representative

TS:rm

Enclosures