



**American
Red Cross**
of the Greater Lehigh Valley

2200 Avenue A
Bethlehem, PA 18017-2181
Tel: 610-865-4400
Fax: 610-865-5871
lvarc@usa.redcross.org
www.redcrosslv.org

Branch Office:

129 N. First Street
Lehigh, PA 18235
Tel: 610-377-2100

Participating United Way agency

April 23, 2002

Representative Paul W. Semmel
47 East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120

APR 26 2002

Dear Representative Semmel,

I am writing to update you on the **Statewide Extended Care** program administered by the American Red Cross – Southeastern Pennsylvania chapter. The program provides critical assistance to low-income victims of disaster across the Commonwealth, including Lehigh, Northampton, and Carbon Counties. Through the efforts of the Legislature and the Administration, the program was funded for \$1 million as a line item in the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's (PEMA) budget last year. Unfortunately, Red Cross Statewide Extended Care has not been included in the FY2002-2003 budget, and without the Commonwealth's funding, the program most likely will not be able to continue.

By funding Extended Care last year, you and your colleagues have enabled the Red Cross to make remarkable accomplishments for families affected by disasters. Statewide Extended Care is a great example of what can be achieved by partnerships between the Commonwealth and community-based organizations like the Red Cross.

Just to give you a few highlights of the program:

- Since its start in 2000, Statewide Extended Care has assisted 1,079 families, including 2,106 adults and 1,488 children. Red Cross chapters across Pennsylvania have been able to return these families to independent living and avoid the cycle of homelessness.
- Program assistance includes minor home repairs, rental assistance, building repair materials, rental deposits, transportation assistance, board-up service, day care assistance, extended lodging and food assistance, disaster prevention education, crisis counseling, referrals and homeowners/renters insurance counseling and other services directly related to disaster recovery.
- All counties are eligible for these funds, and 38 counties have received assistance through the program. The initial start-up goal of the statewide program was to include 13 Red Cross chapters that would represent approximately 70% of the areas in which domestic disasters occur across the Commonwealth. Beyond those original 13 chapters, the program has now had participation from an additional 9 chapters, and we seek to reach more with this critical assistance.


Together, we can save a life

- The program is highly efficient, averaging an impressive ratio of 85% direct client service and 15% in administrative costs.

I hope that you will do whatever you can to keep statewide Extended Care alive. If you would like, my colleagues and I would be happy to brief you further on the tremendous accomplishments of the program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,



John R. Hughes
Executive Director

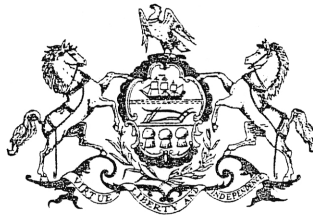
PAUL W. SEMMEL, MEMBER
ROOM 47, EAST WING
HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 202020
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2020
PHONE (717) 787-3017

DISTRICT OFFICES:
4525 SPRING HILL DRIVE
P. O. BOX 235
SCHNECKSVILLE, PA 18078
PHONE: (610) 799-0187

MACUNGIE BOROUGH HALL
PHONE: (610) 966-0187

UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP BUILDING
PHONE: (610) 395-8180

KUTZTOWN BOROUGH HALL
PHONE: (610) 683-9199



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES:

VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, CHAIRMAN
COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
HOUSE MAJORITY POLICY COMMITTEE

DESIGNATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS
STATE ARMORY BOARD
PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

April 29, 2002

The Honorable Mark S. Schweiker
Governor
Room 225, Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Schweiker:

In our capacity as members of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, which has oversight for PEMA and various emergency management programs, we are corresponding with your office for the purpose of respectfully requesting that a \$1 million line item for the American Red Cross "Extended Care" Program be included in the FY 2002-2003 Commonwealth Budget. As you are aware, amendment A 1526, which would restore this previously funded line item, was unanimously adopted by the House of Representatives during its deliberations on House Bill 2489.

The Red Cross "Extended Care" Program, which received a \$1 million line item in the FY 2000-2001 State budget and FY 2001-2002 State budget, is an extremely important disaster recovery program which enables disaster victims to resume their normal way of living as quickly as possible. This program, which in FY 2001 assisted 596 families in 38 counties, is indeed a vital disaster assistance tool that the Commonwealth, via the American Red Cross, can rely upon when the floodwaters rise or when a tragic fire destroys the home of a now distraught and displaced family.

As we are all aware, this year's State Budget will have numerous cutbacks due to the troubled economic situation that this Commonwealth and Nation have endured over the past several months. Nonetheless, we as legislators need to be cognizant of the fact that the economic situation of a number of families across this Commonwealth will further deteriorate as they fall victim to a disaster. Therefore, we strongly recommend that the General Assembly continue to fund the Red Cross "Extended Care" Program through a \$1 million line item under the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agencies FY 2002-2003 budget. Without a doubt, this budget line item is a small investment which yields a great return for disaster victims across this Commonwealth.

Page Two


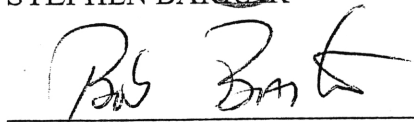
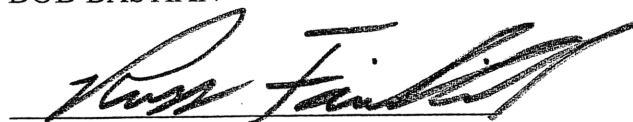
Thank you for your time, efforts and considerations on this important request. If you should wish to discuss this issue with the Committee, or any one of our members, please do not hesitate to contact the pertinent office on this matter.

Sincerely,



PAUL W. SEMMEL
Majority Chairman

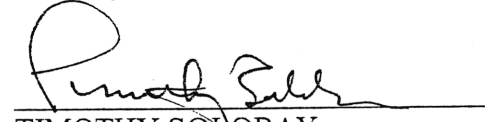
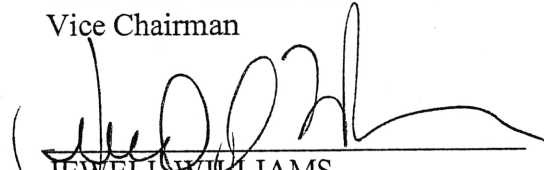
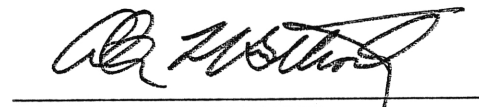
ALLAN EGOLF
Vice Chairman


JERRY A. STERN
Secretary
STEPHEN BARRAR
BOB BASTIAN
RUSSELL FAIRCHILD

Sincerely,



THOMAS A. MICHLOVIC
Minority Chairman


TIMOTHY SOLOBAY
Vice Chairman
JEWELL WILLIAMS
Secretary
LINDA BEBKO-JONES
ALAN L. BUTKOVITZ
THOMAS C. CORRIGAN, SR.

Teresa E. Forcier

TERESA E. FORCIER

Scott E. Hutchinson

SCOTT E. HUTCHINSON

Kenneth M. Jadlowiec

KENNETH M. JADLOWIEC

Ronald S. Marsico

RONALD S. MARSICO

Ronald Miller

RONALD MILLER

Jerry L. Nailor

JERRY L. NAILOR

John R. Pippy

JOHN R. PIPPY

Larry O. Sather

LARRY O. SATHER

Peter J. Zug

PETER J. ZUG

R. Ted Harhai

R. TED HARHAI

Edward J. Lucyk

EDWARD J. LUCYK

Steve Samuelson

STEVE SAMUELSON

Guy A. Travaglio

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO

Leo J. Trich, Jr.

LEO J. TRICH, JR.

Rep. Paul Semmel
187th District
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
(610) 799-0187
(717) 787-3017
Contact: Jane Shatto
House Republican Communications
(717) 787-3993
www.pahousegop.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2002

Semmel Calls for Funds for Red Cross Extended Care Program

House members agree

HARRISBURG – The House this week unanimously approved a 2002-03 budget amendment introduced by Rep. Paul Semmel (R-187) that reinstates a \$1 million appropriation for the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Semmel, who chairs the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, was joined by his committee colleagues in sponsoring the line item funding that had been included in the last two state budgets, but was eliminated in Gov. Mark Schweiker's 2002-03 proposal presented to the General Assembly in February.

He said the funds are earmarked for the Red Cross "Extended Care" Program – an extremely important disaster recovery program which enables disaster victims to resume their normal way of living as quickly as possible.

"This program, which in 2001 assisted 596 families in 38 counties, is indeed a vital disaster assistance tool that the Commonwealth relies on to help when floodwaters rise or when a tragic fire destroys a home, leaving a distraught and displaced family," Semmel added.

He and the other committee members are all aware that this year's state budget will have numerous cutbacks due to the troubled economic situation the Commonwealth – along with the rest of the nation – has endured over the past several months.

"Nonetheless, we as legislators need to be cognizant of the fact that the economic situation of a number of families across Pennsylvania will further deteriorate as they fall victim to a disaster. Therefore, we strongly recommend that the General Assembly continue to fund the Red Cross 'Extended Care' Program through a \$1 million line item under the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's (PEMA) budget," he said.

"Without a doubt, this budget line item is a small investment that yields a great return for disaster victims across this Commonwealth."

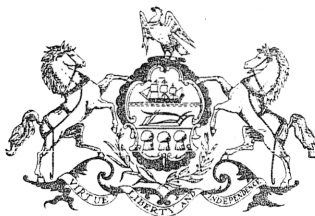
#

PAUL W. SEMMEL, MEMBER
ROOM 47, EAST WING
HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 202020
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2020
PHONE (717) 787-3017
E-MAIL: psemmel@pahousegop.com

DISTRICT OFFICES:
4525 SPRING HILL DRIVE
P. O. BOX 235
SCHNECKSVILLE, PA 18078
PHONE: (610) 799-0187

UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP BUILDING
8330 SCHANTZ ROAD
BREINIGSVILLE, PA 18031
PHONE: (610) 395-8180

KUTZTOWN BOROUGH HALL
PHONE: (610) 683-9199



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG
June 2, 2003

COMMITTEES:

VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, CHAIRMAN
COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
HOUSE MAJORITY POLICY COMMITTEE

DESIGNATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS
STATE ARMORY BOARD
PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The Honorable David Argall
Appropriations Chairman
Room 245, Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Argall:

In our capacity as members of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, which has oversight for the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and various emergency management programs, we are corresponding with your office for the purpose of respectfully requesting that the line item for the American Red Cross "Extended Care" Program be restored to \$1 million in the FY 2003-2004 Commonwealth Budget.

Through legislative and the Administrative efforts in FY 2001-2002, the program was funded for \$1 million as a line item in the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's (PEMA) budget. In the proposed FY 2002-2003 budget, the Red Cross Statewide Extended Care Program line item had been excluded. However, with your help, we were able to reinstate a portion of the necessary funding for this program into the final budget.

Once again, in the FY 2003-2004 budget, the Red Cross Statewide Management Extended Care program's appropriation has been significantly reduced from its funding level in the FY 2001-2002 budget. Unfortunately, this program faces difficult times once more as the line item for this program continues to be drastically reduced to \$500,000. Without the Commonwealth's continuation of a consistent level of funding of \$1 million, the program will likely not be able to meet the needs of all Pennsylvanians.

By restoring the funding level to \$1 million for the Extended Care Program, you and your colleagues will enable the Red Cross to aid families affected by disasters. Statewide Extended Care is a great example of what can be achieved by partnerships between the Commonwealth and community-based organizations like the Red Cross.

The Red Cross Extended Care Program is an extremely important disaster recovery program which enables disaster victims to resume their normal way of living as quickly as possible. Since its start in 2000, Statewide Extended Care has assisted 1,390 families, including 2,704

Page Two

adults and 1,967 children. Red Cross chapters across Pennsylvania have been able to return these families to independent living and avoid the cycle of homelessness.


This program is indeed a vital disaster assistance tool that the Commonwealth, via the American Red Cross, can rely on when the floodwaters rise or when a tragic fire destroys the home of a now distraught and displaced family. All counties in Pennsylvania are eligible for these funds, and 39 counties have received assistance through the program. The initial start-up goal of the statewide program was to include 13 Red Cross chapters that would represent approximately 70% of the areas in which domestic disasters occur across the Commonwealth. Beyond those original 13 chapters, the program has now had participation from additional 40 chapters, and we seek to reach more with this critical assistance.

The Extended Care Program routinely returns families back to independent living in less than three weeks. Under government programs, families remain in homeless shelters for nearly six months to one year.

As we are all aware, this year's State Budget has numerous cutbacks due to the budget deficit in the Commonwealth. Nonetheless, we as legislators need to be cognizant of the fact that the economic situation of a number of families across this Commonwealth will further deteriorate as they fall victim to a disaster. Therefore, we strongly recommend that the General Assembly continue to fund the Red Cross Extended Care Program through a \$1 million line item under the Pennsylvania Emergency management Agencies FY 2003-2004 budget. Without a doubt, this budget line item is a small investment which yields great return for disaster victims across this Commonwealth.

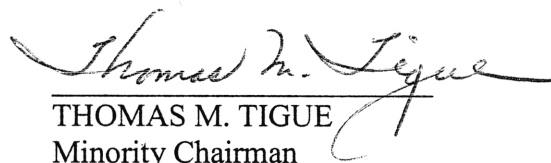
Thank you for your time, efforts and considerations on this important request. If you should wish to discuss this issue with the Committee, or any of our members, please do not hesitate to contact the pertinent office on this matter.

Sincerely,



PAUL W. SEMMEL
Majority Chairman

Sincerely,



THOMAS M. TIGUE
Minority Chairman

Jerry A. Stern

JERRY A. STERN
Subcommittee Chairman
Military & Veterans Facilities

Gibson C. Armstrong

GIBSON C. ARMSTRONG
Secretary

Bob Bastian

BOB BASTIAN

Martin T. Causer

MARTIN T. CAUSER

Russell Fairchild

RUSSELL FAIRCHILD

Will Gabig

WILL GABIG

Scott E. Hutchinson

SCOTT E. HUTCHINSON

Ronald S. Marsico

RONALD S. MARSICO

Timothy Solobay

TIMOTHY SOLOBAY
Subcommittee Chairman on
Security & Emergency Response

Linda Bebeko-Jones

LINDA BEBKO-JONES
Subcommittee Chairman
Military & Veterans Facilities

Robert E. Belfanti, Jr.

ROBERT E. BELFANTI, JR.

Thomas C. Corrigan

CORRIGAN, THOMAS

Neal P. Goodman

NEAL P. GOODMAN

Richard T. Grucela

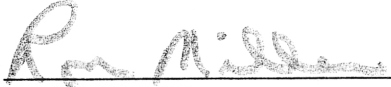
RICHARD T. GRUCELA

Steve Samuelson

STEVE SAMUELSON

Jewell Williams

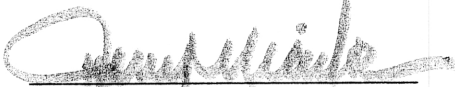
JEWELL WILLIAMS



RON MILLER



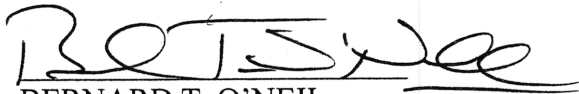
THOMAS F. YEWIC



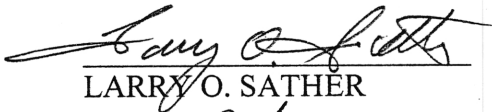
JERRY L. NAILOR



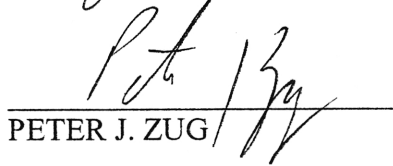
ROSITA C. YOUNGBLOO



BERNARD T. O'NEIL



LARRY O. SATHER



PETER J. ZUG

PAUL W. SEMMEL, MEMBER

ROOM 47, EAST WING
HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 202020
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2020
PHONE (717) 767-3017
E-MAIL: psemmel@pahousegop.com

DISTRICT OFFICES:
4525 SPRING HILL DRIVE
P. O. BOX 235
SCHNECKSVILLE, PA 18078
PHONE: (610) 799-0187

UPPER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP BUILDING
8330 SCHANTZ ROAD
BREINIGSVILLE, PA 18031
PHONE: (610) 395-8180
KUTZTOWN BOROUGH HALL
PHONE: (610) 683-9199



House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES:

VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, MAJORITY CHAIRMAN
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
HOUSE MAJORITY POLICY COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

DESIGNATIONS:

PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY COUNCIL

June 18, 2004

David Argall
Majority Appropriations Chairman
Room 245, Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Argall:

As members of the House of Representatives Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, we are writing to request that you restore funding in the 2004-2005 fiscal year budget for the Red Cross Extended Care Program.

Over the past few budget years, this funding, appearing in the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's (PEMA) budget, was significantly reduced from \$1 million to \$500,000. Without the Commonwealth's continuation of a consistent level of funding at \$1 million, the program will likely not be able to meet the needs of many Pennsylvanians.

The Extended Care Program, piloted in 1995, is administered through the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of Red Cross ("SEPA") and through local Red Cross chapters, provides support to low-income disaster victims across the Commonwealth.

Over the years, Extended Care has expertly managed personnel, government and community resources to meet families' needs by returning them to independent living rather than the cycle of dependency that often follows disasters such as fires, floods, or storms. The primary objective is to help people resume their normal way of living as soon as possible rather than entering a cycle of homelessness, state dependency and despair.

To date, Extended Care has helped close to 2,000 families return to independent living after major disasters, which have been mostly single and multiple house fires, but also have included recent flash floods in Blair, Erie, and Fayette counties and building collapses in Susquehanna Valley, Philadelphia, Northampton. About half of these families included children, and many were able to relocate in the area where they lived prior to the disaster, thus minimizing disruption to their lives.

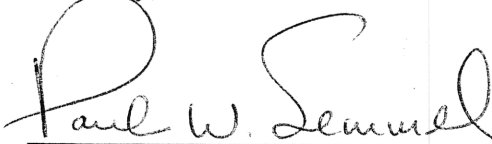
In the last three years, these resources jointly have translated into about \$3 million in direct assistance to 5,500 Pennsylvania residents. The PEMA-funded portion of this assistance has

been about 80 percent. Moreover, Extended Care has consistently maintained low administrative costs, ensuring that the majority of funds (close to 90%) directly assist families.

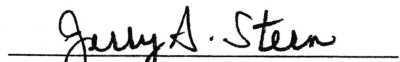
Again, on behalf of the Red Cross Extended Care Program, we are requesting your support and assistance in restoring \$1 million in funding for this program. This budget line item is a small investment that will continue to yield a great return for disaster victims in this state. Without this program a large number of families in Pennsylvania will be financially devastated.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact us, through the Chairmen of this Committee, if you have any questions or need additional information. Enclosed you will find further background on this unique and important disaster assistance program.


Sincerely,




PAUL W. SEMMEL
Majority Chairman




JERRY A. STERN
Subcommittee Chairman
Military & Veterans Facilities



GIBSON C. ARMSTRONG
Secretary

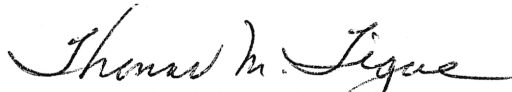


BOB BASTIAN

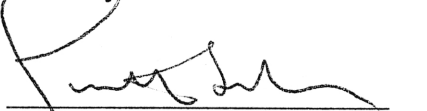


MARTIN T. CAUSER

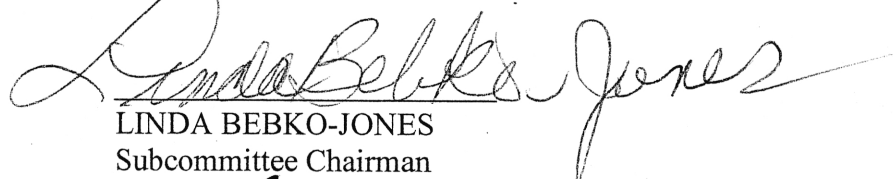
Sincerely,



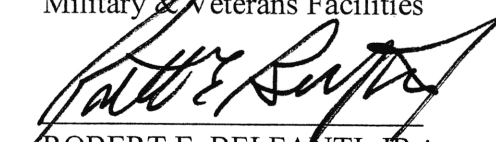
THOMAS M. TIGUE
Minority Chairman



TIMOTHY SOLOBAY
Subcommittee Chairman on
Security & Emergency Response



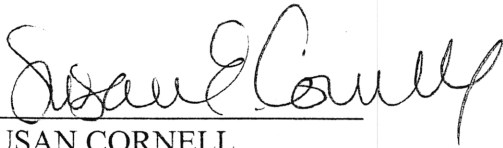
LINDA BEBKO-JONES
Subcommittee Chairman
Military & Veterans Facilities



ROBERT E. BELFANTI, JR.



CORRIGAN, THOMAS



SUSAN CORNELL



NEAL P. GOODMAN



WILL GABIG



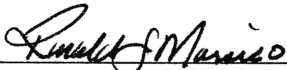
RICHARD T. GRUCELA



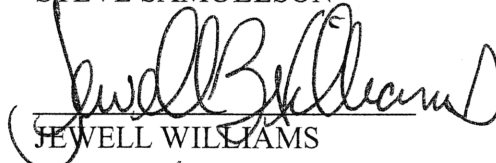
SCOTT E. HUTCHINSON



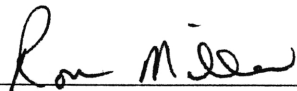
STEVE SAMUELSON



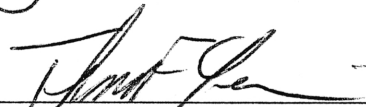
RONALD S. MARSICO



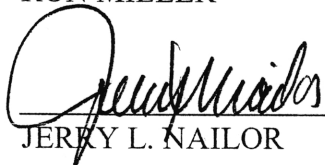
JEWELL WILLIAMS



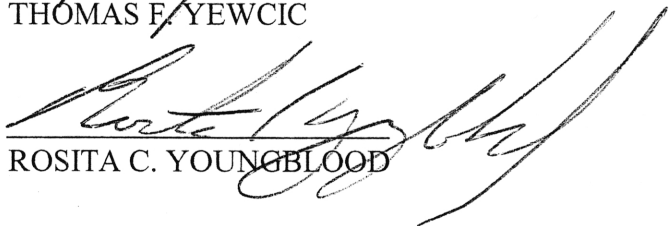
RON MILLER



THOMAS F. YEWIC




JERRY L. NAILOR



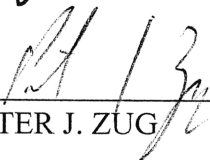
ROSITA C. YOUNGBLOOD



BERNARD T. O'NEIL



LARRY O. SATHER



PETER J. ZUG