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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

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August 29, 2003

Honorable Edward G. Rendell, Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

I write to you today regarding a matter of great urgency and gravity. Specifically, I am referring to the dispute between AK Steel and the Department of Environmental Protection. If left unresolved, Butler County will lose its largest employer and leave approximately 1,500 employees without jobs.

As you know, AK Steel has already closed its specialty plant, commonly referred to as Plant 2. However, the company is rumored to be facing a takeover as well as moving its main operation to another state. In addition to a downturn in the economy and its plummeting stock prices, recently valued at \$2.40 a share, a key reason for relocation is due to DEP's interpretation of sulfate and chloride limits imposed by the EPA. According to a company official, AK Steel has already spent \$25 million to comply with the regulations limiting sulfates and chlorides.

Western Pennsylvania clearly cannot sustain further unemployment. My constituents need your leadership and guidance. Desperate pleas to my office continue to increase, and our newspaper is inundated with letters to the editor regarding this plant closing as well as other grievances. Therefore, I urge you to direct DEP to meet with officials at AK Steel. In addition, I am asking that you send in the Governor's Action Team as soon as possible before this matter escalates into mass layoffs and further hostilities.

As always, I look forward to working with you and your administration. With your prompt intervention, I am hopeful that we can circumvent this plant's closure. Thank you in advance for your dedication to the good people of Butler County.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Guy A. Travaglio".

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, JR.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
11th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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May 27, 2003

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol
Harrisburg PA 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

It's been almost seven years since Butler County lost its State Health Center under a failed experiment of the former Administration. I am fighting the Legislature to reopen this center, as well as the centers in Berks and Dauphin counties. But in the interest of protecting the public, I need your help.

The Federal Council on Public Health Preparedness last year released its finding that many communities throughout the nation are still unprepared to handle a biological terrorist attack such as smallpox and anthrax. Local health departments, it found, lack the facilities, staff and ability to deliver the vaccines and services needed to thwart an outbreak of this magnitude. In the same breath, the council concluded that while the federal government has the ability to stockpile vaccines and medications to fight illness, the strength to fight this warfare "has got to be at the local level."

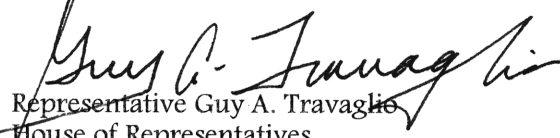
With bouts of the SARS and West Nile viruses being found in the Commonwealth, compounded with elevated levels of terrorist attacks, it is essential that we open these centers for our residents. What's more is that Butler County is lacking an emergency response center in case of an attack. Pittsburgh's center is more than 50 miles away. Right now school nurses needing immediate advice when and how to deal with fumes in a school building must deal with poison control centers outside the area. Mothers-to-be must find alternative prenatal care.

My legislation, if passed, would immediately open public health centers statewide. At a policy hearing I hosted in Butler last year, former Department of Aging Secretary Linda Rhodes testified that privatizing these centers is jeopardizing your health. Furthermore, there is no proof that the closures have save any money whatsoever. A copy of her report can be provided upon request for your review.

When the Ridge Administration closed Butler County's State Health Center as part of an experiment in 1995, we lost a real community asset, as well as an essential tool in the war against terrorism. I am hoping you will help me push HB 713 to the forefront, or reopen them by means of executive order.

I look forward to a cooperative effort.

Sincerely,


Representative Guy A. Travaglio
House of Representatives
11th Legislative District

GAT/ls/mlt



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
HARRISBURG

MICHAEL J. MASCH
SECRETARY
OFFICE OF THE BUDGET

May 16, 2003

Honorable Guy A. Travaglio
House of Representatives
House Box 202020
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-2020

Dear Representative Travaglio:

On behalf of Governor Rendell, I thank you for your letter stating your support for the Transportation Assistance capital project to the Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad.

While we will acknowledge and will remain aware of your support, please be advised that with the passage of Act 131, there is nearly \$4.4 billion in projects awaiting implementation. The schedule for project implementation is developed to incorporate the level of additional debt financing that the Commonwealth can reasonably afford, particularly in these uncertain economic times.

While a firm commitment regarding a specific release date cannot be given at this time, please be assured that this office will remain aware of your support for this project as the release schedule is developed for the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Masch".

Michael J. Masch