



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Tim Krieger

Serving the 57th Legislative District

Spring 2011

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Krieger Calls on Legislature to Lead By Example

Dear Friends:

Thank you for another opportunity to serve you at home and in Harrisburg.

Public service is an opportunity to lead by example and much of the responsibility of leadership involves setting responsible priorities and making tough decisions. Another vital aspect of effective leadership is establishing and maintaining credibility.

There is perhaps no better way to restore public trust in the state Legislature than to begin with individual lawmakers voluntarily sacrificing to reduce the overall size and cost of government. To that end, I have reintroduced **legislation** to make **bold changes** in how **pensions** for **Pennsylvania General Assembly** members are administered.

If enacted, **House Bill 418** would convert all legislative pensions from the present defined-benefit plan to a defined-contribution plan similar to those offered in the private sector. Unlike other proposals, my legislation would make that conversion mandatory for all state lawmakers, whether new or presently serving.

In addition, I am co-sponsoring two other pieces of lead by example legislation to reduce overall taxpayer expenditures. First, I am again one of the three main sponsors of **House Bill 1064** which would amend Pennsylvania's Constitution to return the General Assembly to its foundation as a **part-time citizens' Legislature** where all state Senators and Representatives receive **part-time pay** for **part-time work**.



Surrounded by his family on the Pennsylvania House floor, State Representative Tim Krieger takes the oath of office to begin his second term serving the people of the 57th Legislative District.

Last, but certainly not least, I am co-sponsoring **House Bill 1380** to eliminate unjustifiable, automatic **Cost Of Living Adjustments (COLAs)** for the **General Assembly** members.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns relating to state government issues, please do not hesitate to contact me. My staff and I are here to work for you.

Serving the 57th District,

Tim Krieger

Visit me on the Web at REPKRIEGER.COM

Southwestern Pennsylvania's Next Economic Revolution

Many of our communities bear scars from the development of the coal fields. But they are also filled with people whose forbears worked those mines, many immigrants from eastern and southern Europe who traveled thousands of miles to make lives for themselves and their families, people who would not be here today without the opportunities created by those mines.

Not only did these immigrants provide for their loved ones, together they built western Pennsylvania into the mightiest industrial center in the world. Then, after the coal ran out and the mills closed, western Pennsylvania fell upon hard times. As we have all experienced, you can hardly go anywhere in the country without meeting someone who hails from our area – before our people were scattered to the four winds.

After years of economic stagnation, however, something entirely unexpected happened. Independent gas producers learned how to drill miles beneath the surface with amazing accuracy to tap rich reserves of hidden natural gas – clean, environmentally friendly **Marcellus Shale** natural gas.

As a result, a new business sprang into being – one created, not by DCED funding, special tax credits or government hand-outs, but by ingenuity, determination and good old-fashioned American grit.

A Proven Source of Jobs and Revenue

Despite the cries of the tax and spenders in Harrisburg, the industry pays its fair share. In just a few short years, the **Marcellus Shale** industry already employs more than **88,000** Pennsylvanians.

That number is expected to swell to some **220,000, most good paying jobs**, by the end of this decade. Moreover, going forward Pennsylvania can expect to see additional **Marcellus investment of \$10 Billion** each and every year.

Government also receives more than its fair share of taxation from this activity. As a result of **Marcellus Shale** activity in 2009, Pennsylvania state and local governments received tax revenues in excess of **\$389 million**, with that amount forecast to grow to **\$1.4 billion by 2015**, and to **\$1.8 billion by 2020**.

Marcellus Shale producers are not asking for government handouts, special favors or a free ride. They ask merely to be left alone to develop this resource in our free enterprise system, in partnership with the private owners of this resource.

Debunking The Fear Factor

Some fear the environmental impact of gas drilling. Nothing in life, however, comes without risk. Many of the opponents of gas drilling appear to be driven more by fear than by fact.

We have had shallow well drilling in this state for more than a century, and if anything, deep well drilling is safer. Our regulatory approach is also much more rigorous than it was when coal was king – and no one intends to give the industry a free pass on environmental regulatory compliance.

In fact, in just the last two years DEP has hired more than 110 new inspectors to ensure compliance. We can adequately address any new environmental concerns as they are identified, responding to facts, not fears.

Unfortunately, in addition to fear, it appears that much of the opposition is fueled by simple envy. Since the demise of the coal industry and the loss of much of our industrial base, western Pennsylvania has suffered, while southeastern Pennsylvania and other areas of the country have prospered.

Many, especially from the southeastern portion of the state, seem intent upon making sure that our people not enjoy some long overdue prosperity. This current boom is western Pennsylvania's best hope in a generation for economic prosperity.

Krieger Appointed to Four Standing House Committees

Speaker of the House Sam Smith (R-Jefferson) has appointed me to serve on the following House committees for the 2011-2012 legislative session:

- **ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY:** This committee has legislative oversight for the more than 45 different environmental laws administered by both the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), including the development and extraction of **Marcellus Shale natural gas**.

In addition, I have been appointed to this committee's **Subcommittee on Mining**.

- **JUDICIARY:**

I have recently been appointed chair for the **Subcommittee on Crime and Corrections** of this committee, which focuses on legislative issues involving the criminal code, courts and the prison system.

- **LIQUOR CONTROL:**

This committee is responsible for all legislative issues relating to the administration, licensing, sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages throughout the Commonwealth, including the issue of whether or not to privatize the wholesale and retail operations of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

- **STATE GOVERNMENT:**

This committee maintains legislative jurisdiction over issues involving state constitutional amendments, land conveyances, state election code, state initiatives and referendums, sunshine law amendments, and this year's Congressional reapportionment.

Corbett 2011-12 Budget Proposal Calls for Tough Cuts

It is no secret that the Pennsylvania state government faces a difficult budget year. As I have said before, Pennsylvania's budget problems were caused, not by too few taxes, but by too much spending.

Budgeting is about setting priorities. Spending nearly **\$1 billion less** than last year's budget, the governor's proposed **\$27.3 billion 2011-12 state budget** draws a line in the sand on spending.

There is no doubt that the proposed cuts to education are significant. It is important to remember that the proposed cuts will likely be reduced through the negotiating process. Any reductions in cuts to education, however, will need to be replaced by cuts to other programs. The Legislature will work to balance those priorities as we move forward.

One priority that should be addressed in this budget is welfare spending. Auditor General Jack Wagner established a solid framework for this effort by identifying as much as **\$700 million** in increased annual taxpayer costs due to welfare fraud.

My colleagues and I on the **House Republican Welfare Reform Task Force** will be looking closely at the **Department of Public Welfare** for additional taxpayer savings.

My first priority in this year's budget process is to protect the hard-working people of the 57th District who pay the taxes spent too freely in Harrisburg. Together we can climb out of this fiscal hole.



Representative Krieger speaks to third graders during a recent visit to Nicely Elementary School.

Krieger Backs Biennial State Budget Legislation

After witnessing the passage of two consecutive unsustainable state budgets, I have no doubt that reforming our state's budgeting process is desperately needed.

Before 2002, the state budget was late only four times between 1971 and 2001. Yet during the past eight years, eight consecutive state budgets were passed after the June 30 deadline. In fact, the 101-day 2009-10 state budget impasse was the longest of all 50 states.

Supported as a high priority reform by Gov. Tom Corbett, **House Bill 241** would cut down on the countless hours spent each year on budget preparation and would encourage a more restrained approach to revenue forecasting, both of which would save state taxpayers millions of dollars.

Currently 20 states budget biennially, including several states with larger populations than Pennsylvania, such as Texas, Virginia, and North Carolina.

The process of moving to a biennial budget is far from easy. It will require amending the Pennsylvania Constitution, which entails passing legislation in both chambers of the General Assembly; advertising across the Commonwealth; coming back to the Legislature for a second approval in the next session; and going back to the voters for final consent.

While this will be a very involved process, biennial budgeting is essential to repairing Pennsylvania's inefficient and maligned annual budget process. Perhaps most importantly, the adoption of biennial state budget legislation would be Pennsylvania's first step toward returning to a **part-time citizens' Legislature**.

House Votes to Advance Significant Reform Package

In early February, I voted to advance the most comprehensive state government reform package since Governor Thornburgh's Administration, including:

- **House Bill 15:** Establishes the **PennWATCH** online database to allow citizens to monitor government expenditures and other statistical information to hold elected officials fiscally responsible.
- **House Bill 103:** Increases the penalties for lobbyists engaging in prohibited activities.
- **House Bill 107:** Strictly prohibits any state employee from evaluating any state contract proposal submitted by a former employer, less than two years following the date of the state employee's separation with the former employer.
- **House Bill 108:** Makes the Right-To-Know law applicable to public procurement contracts and provides for public inspection of non-competitively awarded contracts prior to execution of the agreement.
- **House Bill 109:** Prohibits members of the General Assembly from creating or maintaining non-profits which receive taxpayer funding.

Each of these reform initiatives to increase transparency and accountability are now in the Senate awaiting consideration.

SAVE THE DATES!

SENIOR EXPO

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13
10:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

DELMONT FIRE HALL
2360 ROUTE 66

Hosted by
Representative
Tim Krieger

and

Senator
Don White

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24
9:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M.

SLICKVILLE
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.
128 MAIN STREET

Breakfast is FREE, but reservations are required. Please contact my Greensburg district office at (724) 834-6400 by Monday, September 12 to R.S.V.P.

State Representative Tim Krieger's 2011 Sportsmen's Event

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

NOON TO 4 P.M.

Police Rod and Gun Club

153 Bigem Road

New Alexandria, PA 15670

Scheduled Ongoing Demonstrations!

Free Admission!

Family-Oriented Activities!

STATE CAPITOL BUS TRIP

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

A bus trip from Greensburg to Harrisburg to tour the state Capitol and the governor's mansion is being arranged. For more information or to reserve your seat, please call my Greensburg district office at (724) 834-6400 by Monday, August 15.



Representative Krieger welcomes local residents who participated in his 2010 bus trip from Greensburg to Harrisburg.

How My Offices Can Help You

GREENSBURG: 101 Ehalt St., Suite 105, The Train Station, Greensburg, PA 15601 | Phone: (724) 834-6400 | FAX: (724) 834-6799

YOUNGWOOD: 17 S. Sixth St., Youngwood, PA 15697 | Phone: (724) 925-5490 | FAX: (724) 925-5491

EMAIL: TKrieger@pahousegop.com

My staff and I are always ready to assist constituents of the 57th District with a number of state-related matters, including PennDOT paperwork, PACE and PACENET applications for senior citizens, 2010 Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms and many others.

Visit me on the Web at **REP KRIEGER.COM**