

**Manheim Area
Chamber of Commerce**



13 East High Street, Manheim PA 17545
Phone 717-665-6330 Fax 717-665-7656
info@manheimchamber.com
Visit our website at www.manheimchamber.com

January 27, 2006

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

The Honorable H. William Deweese
PA House, Democratic Leader
Room 423, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

The Honorable David J. Brightbill
PA Senate, Majority Leader
Senate Box 203048
350 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3048

The Honorable Noah W. Wenger
PA Senate
Senate Box 203036
281 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3036

The Honorable Robert J. Mellow
PA Senate, Democratic Leader
Senate Box 203022
535 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3022

The Honorable Thomas C. Creighton
PA House of Representatives
53A East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

The Honorable Samuel H. Smith
PA House, Majority Leader
110 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Governor Rendell, Senator Brightbill, Senator Mellow, Representative Smith, Representative Deweese, Senator Wenger and Representative Creighton:

On behalf of the members of the Manheim Area Chamber of Commerce, we write to you to express our concern regarding property tax reform bills now under consideration by the Legislature. Our Chamber supports an equitably funded education system that provides a qualified workforce and a competitive tax base.

We believe, however, that the proposals under consideration will merely shift the tax burden to businesses. For many businesses, the unintended consequences of these increased business taxes could decrease their competitiveness due to higher costs, which could cause reduced employment, the company going out of business, or the company moving out of Pennsylvania. None of these options are good for the citizens of the Commonwealth.

As an alternative, we believe the Legislature should consider comprehensive tax reform that is all-inclusive, with nothing exempted from review. We believe that the proposed property tax bills will not provide the intended relief. In addition, we believe that they will make Pennsylvania more unfriendly for business. As part of the review the Legislature should look to eliminate many of the costly mandates imposed on businesses, allowing the free market system to operate competitively and effectively. At the same time, the Legislature should look at an equitable funding formula for our educational system.

We urge you to enact comprehensive tax reform that is fair for both individuals and business for the benefit of all Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,

Alan Conley
President, Board of Directors

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