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Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2007 12:30 PM

To: Senate Ag And Rural Affairs Committee; kebersol@pasen.gov; comforturellp@yahoo.com

Subject: Re: PA Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee

Dear Kristen.

Once again, I will not be able to attend the public hearing due to a previous scheduling conflict.

However, if public input is accepted, I would appreciate that you pass my concerns and comments on to the committee, **on the record**.

First I wish to say that regardless of any justification any employer or politician might come up with for using, or hiring illegal immigrants, or any attempt to "legitimize" illegals, is wholly unacceptable. It is dangerous to the security of the Commonwealth, the nation, and the local community. Any such attempts to justify a pathway to hiring people who have already flouted the law, and disrespected our sovereignty is in itself criminal, and to paint such otherwise is entirely deceptive toward self, and community.

Though justification to circumvent laws by government and industry is virtually always boiled down to the 'almighty dollar', hiring illegals, though offering superficial appearance of cost savings, is overall a financial liability and detriment to Pennsylvania. Hidden costs associated with the practice of hiring illegal aliens are evidenced in criminal acts, enforcements, and prosecutions, schooling, health and infrastructure services, insurance losses, and overall lost tax revenues.

If we are to seek immigrant labor for cost-cutting, or to fill allegedly unpalatable jobs, it must be done above board and forthrightly by government and industry alike. These entities are supposed to set and abide by the highest standards of commerce and law, not find ways of getting around acting less than honorably, or lawfully. Not by moving the goal posts or changing the rules to fit the desire, rather by working within the acceptable parameters, in the open light, performing the necessary work, taking the necessary measures, and incurring the necessary costs to get the job done honestly - like any citizen is expected to do. Anything short of this is a sham, setting up an elitist system, and a double standard. This in turn breaks down the foundations of society and government.

Therefore, if immigrant labor is sought, the only legitimate method of doing so is to reject present illegals wholesale, and set up a liaison office to process new legal immigrants, which may be solicited by the Ag industry and Commonwealth in other nations (eg, Mexico) for temporary, part time, and/or seasonal workers as the case may be, for limited stints, with no means of naturalization through the hiring program. Those who seek citizenship must do so through normal Federal channels and protocols.

Under such a plan, PA could for instance waive PA income tax on such workers, and industry can provide minimal health coverage purchased for finite periods to accommodate the nature of the worker classification. This plan would offer both cost savings to the industry, an almost limitless pool of low cost labor, while controlling identification of those folks we allow into Pennsylvania, while providing a level of stability for those workers while they are here on permit.

All that this requires is that industry and government work together, and employ common sense, integrity, and diligence to effect the plan. Industry must collectively incur the cost, and government must pass the laws and promote PA agriculture.

My service is available to the Commonwealth to oversee and direct the detailed drafting of the plan. This would serve as a national model, and answer the many hard questions and issues we face regarding illegal immigration.

In another vein, Pennsylvania must push toward a very heavy agrarian culture. The maintenance of our farming and ag industry, as well as our rural complexion, is of paramount import. PA is at a crossroads and point in time, where we must *take action* on what direction the state will take. Strong agriculture, open space, an rural community is imperative to our quality of life, and overall economic growth. In this too, we are posed to be a national model. While other, especially eastern states are using up precious farmland, forrests, and other open space, Pennsylvanias resolve to conserve this commodity for future generations will prove an investment with high dividends, placing PA in a position to supply food and other products that will continue to increase in demand, and therefore, price and profit.

Again, as in other notes to you, the Committee, and Senator Brubaker, I reiterate that we must have the *vision* and the sense, and the wisdom to look back, in order to look forward.

I only wish that I could get an appointment to head up the promotion and implimentation of these concepts discussed here, and espoused by one of our amazing founding American visionaries.

"It will not be doubted, that with reference either to individual, or National Welfare, Agriculture is of primary importance. In proportion as Nations advance in population, and other circumstances of maturity, this truth becomes more apparent; and renders the cultivation of the Soil more and more, an object of public patronage."

-- George Washington (Eighth Annual Message to Congress, 1796)
Reference: Washington's Maxims, 67.

You should have plaques made up Kristen, of this quote for the wall or desk of every member of the Ag Committee, if not the entire PA legislature for a reminder, and a vision for Pennsylvania.

Please send this on to Senator Brubaker, and the Committee if possible.

Sincerely,

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