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Senate of Pennsylvania

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The Honorable H. William DeWeese
Majority Leader
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
110 Main Capitol Building
PO Box 202050
Harrisburg, PA 17120

July 15, 2008

RE: Senate Bill 986

Dear Majority Leader DeWeese:

In reference to the current "Bonusgate" situation, you issued a statement on July 10th concerning the implementation of reforms made to improve financial and personnel controls in the House Democrat caucus wherein you stated, "I can assure Pennsylvanians that the reforms we implemented this session will safeguard against future abuse of tax dollars." I must respectfully ask "where's the beef?"

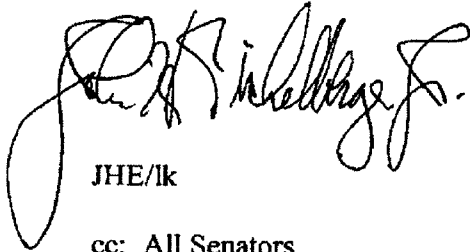
Policies, Codes of Conduct, Compliance and Ethics programs and other like measures are admirable but obviously lack the power and strength of law. Senate Bill 986, known as the commonwealth Agency Bonus Ban Act, applies to all three branches of government, includes state government agencies, provides a clear definition of the prohibition of bonuses and further provides for criminal sanctions in the event of illegal activity. Unfortunately, this bill has been held up in the House State Government Committee since October 18, 2007, after unanimously passing the Senate. I would appreciate your help in getting this bill moved through the House of Representatives and to the Governor by the end of this session.

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I have worked closely with Committee Chair Babette Josephs on this matter and have written her a more detailed letter outlining our history of work on this bill and a drafted, agreed upon amendment.

Assistance from you would be instrumental in helping this bill become the law that truly prevents a "Bonusgate II". Please let me know your intentions on this matter and thank you for the time taken from your very busy schedule.

Best regards,



JHE/lk

cc: All Senators