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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

September 29, 2011

To: All House Members

From: Representative Robert L. Freeman

R.L.F.

Re: Proposed Legislation

I am re-circulating this co-sponsorship memo before I reintroduce HB2018 from the 2007-2008 legislative session. This legislation would provide a dedicated state funding source to municipalities who have at least 15% tax-exempt properties within their municipal borders.

This legislation would use revenue from the 18% Liquor Tax ("Johnstown Flood Tax") to provide funding to municipalities with these high levels of tax exempt properties. As you are aware, municipalities with high levels of tax exempt properties are facing difficult fiscal decisions. A shrinking tax base makes it difficult for them to provide the basic services expected from local government. By providing annual funding to these municipalities, we can ensure that they do not fall into financially distressed status and will be able to continue to deliver essential municipal services.

This program would be beneficial to Act 47 communities, county seats, cities, and any community with a major institution of higher learning, a large non-profit health care facility, or considerable state forest or game land.

If you would like to join me in cosponsoring this legislation, please contact Danielle at 783-3815 or dbrown@pahouse.net.

Previous Co-Sponsors who have yet to sign on again: BAKER, BOYD, BRENNAN, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, COSTA.P, CURRY, DELUCA, DEPASQUALE, FRANKEL, GEIST, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, MAHONEY, MOUL, O'BRIEN.M, REED, SAINATO, SCAVELLO, SHAPIRO, STURLA, WHEATLEY