

STATEMENT BY REP. FRED A. TRELLO

ON

HOUSE BILL 2329

BEFORE

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HONORABLE THOMAS R. CALTAGIRONE, CHAIRMAN

HOUSE MAJORITY CAUCUS ROOM

MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

AUGUST 12, 1992

1:00 P.M.

GOOD AFTERNOON MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE CHAIRMAN AND THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY THAT YOU HAVE AFFORDED ME TO PROVIDE THIS FORUM TO DISCUSS HOUSE BILL 2329.

OVER THE YEARS I HAVE HAD MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO TRAVEL THE PA TURNPIKE ESPECIALLY BETWEEN PITTSBURGH AND HARRISBURG. OF COURSE DURING MANY OF THESE TRIPS I HAD OCCASION TO OBSERVE PENNSYLVANIA'S "FINEST" PATROLLING THE TURNPIKE. HOWEVER, IT WAS ONLY RELATIVELY RECENTLY THAT IT WAS BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION THAT THE ENTIRE COST OF THE STATE POLICE PATROLS OF THE TURNPIKE ARE BORNE BY THE TURNPIKE SYSTEM. THAT INCLUDES SALARIES, VEHICLE EXPENSES AND MAINTENANCE AS WELL AS GASOLINE CONSUMPTION. ADDITIONALLY, THE TURNPIKE SYSTEM HAS PROVIDED A NUMBER OF OTHER BENEFITS TO THE STATE POLICE. THESE INCLUDE THE PURCHASE OF AN AIRPLANE FOR THEIR USAGE, CALL BOXES PLACED ON THE TURNPIKE SYSTEM, INSURANCE COVERAGE AND FUEL MANAGEMENT AT THE TURNPIKE MAINTENANCE SHEDS.

THE ANNUAL COST TO THE TURNPIKE SYSTEM FOR THE STATE POLICE PATROLS APPROACHES 16 MILLION DOLLARS. IT SEEMS TO ME TO ONLY BE FAIR THAT THE TURNPIKE SYSTEM SHOULD GET TO SHARE IN SOME OF THE REVENUES GENERATED FROM THE FINES ATTRIBUTED TO THE TRAFFIC CITATIONS ISSUED ALONG THE

TURNPIKE. THIS IS THE INTENT OF HOUSE BILL 2329. HOUSE BILL 2329 WOULD TAKE THE REVENUES THAT ARE GENERATED FROM THE FINES AND SPLIT THEM 50-50 BETWEEN THE TURNPIKE AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE ORIGIN OF THE VIOLATION. APPROXIMATELY \$2 - 3 MILLION WOULD BE GENERATED FOR THE TURNPIKE TO HELP OFFSET THE COST INCURRED BY THE SYSTEM FOR THE STATE POLICE PATROLS.

THIS SMALL GESTURE SEEMS TO ME TO BE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC POLICY ON TARGET TO BENEFIT THE USER OF THE SYSTEM WHERE THE FINES ARE GENERATED AND INSTITUTING SOME DEGREE OF FAIRNESS AT THE SAME TIME.

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY AND I URGE YOUR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THIS LEGISLATION.