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**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG  
19 February 2014

**LEADERSHIP**

CHAIRMAN AND FOUNDER, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
FORMER MAJORITY CHAIRMAN, HOUSE INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
FORMER MAJORITY CHAIRMAN, HOUSE URBAN AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN, HOUSE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

**SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS**

MEMBER, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
OF STATE LEGISLATURES  
MEMBER, NCSL, COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, TECHNOLOGY  
AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
MEMBER, SPEAKER'S LEGISLATIVE REFORM COMMISSION,  
PA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
MEMBER, COUNCIL ON STATE GOVERNMENTS  
TRUSTEE, LINCOLN UNIVERSITY  
MEMBER, JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION ON  
REAL PROPERTY  
MEMBER, JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION ON  
STROKE PREVENTION  
MEMBER, SELECT COMMITTEE, PA PROPERTY TAX REFORM

**TO:** Secretary Alan C. Walker

**FROM:** Representative W. Curtis Thomas, Chairman  
House Commerce Committee

**SUBJECT:** Annual Appropriations Hearing

In the interest of time, I'm submitting the following questions and would kindly ask that you provide your response to both Appropriations Chairmen and my office within thirty days. I very much appreciate your efforts in this regard.

In the recent budget address, Governor Corbett said, "*If you make job creation the test for most every policy, you'll never go wrong.*"

1. How do we measure whether or not we've been effective at creating jobs through our public investments, which now total nearly \$1 Billion?
2. As we look over FY 2013-14, how was this public investment spent and where were jobs created?
3. What is the department's plan to live up to the Governor's stated mandate about job creation in 2014-15?

According to the Governor's budget address, we're going to invest more than \$450 million for job training in Pennsylvania.

1. How can we be assured that those dollars are being distributed in a fair manner around the state to the areas that need it the most?

2. Where will the job training funds be spent and how many jobs do you anticipate we'll be able to create in the coming year?
3. Would it be possible for the Chairmen of Appropriations to receive quarterly progress reports about this spending?

As you know, DCED's customized job-training program called WEDnet has been responsible for providing training to about 1 million workers.

1. What portion of the 12.4% increase being requested for PA First will be dedicated to WEDnet?
2. Will your training be focused on areas where unemployment is above the statewide average?
3. Do you try to focus training efforts in areas of high unemployment?
4. Are there any other job training programs slated to begin in the next fiscal year?
5. If jobs are the hallmark of our investment, how much collaboration is going on between the Department of Labor and Industry and DCED in terms of job training programs?

What is your department doing to better promote development of the aviation and aerospace sector in Pennsylvania, which is making great strides in other states? Do you have staff dedicated to promoting the aviation/aerospace sector?

With two major international airports and 113 other smaller regional, municipal and private airports, how are we connecting them to the broader aviation and aerospace industry to help them grow and prosper? How are we maximizing our investment?

Last year, we increased funding for World Trade PA and another increase is planned for this year of 8.3%. What is the benefit to Pennsylvanians in terms of goods and services, jobs and promoting the assets of Pennsylvania? How many trade agreements are in place, where are they, and what are the reciprocity agreements like?

As you know, Keystone Communities includes a number of different community development programs, among them Accessible Housing, New Communities, and

Housing and Redevelopment Assistance. The proposed budget calls for a 4.4% reduction for Keystone Communities.

1. Please outline the spending plan for each of the Keystone Communities programs, and in terms of Accessible Housing, provide information about whether or not there is a current backlog of applicants.

How does the department provide cyber security for its clientele and what steps are being taken to protect the proprietary information your department collects from various businesses? Looking forward, are there any plans to enhance the effort and do you think this should be part of a larger cyber security effort across all state agencies?