



Frank Burns

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72nd Legislative District

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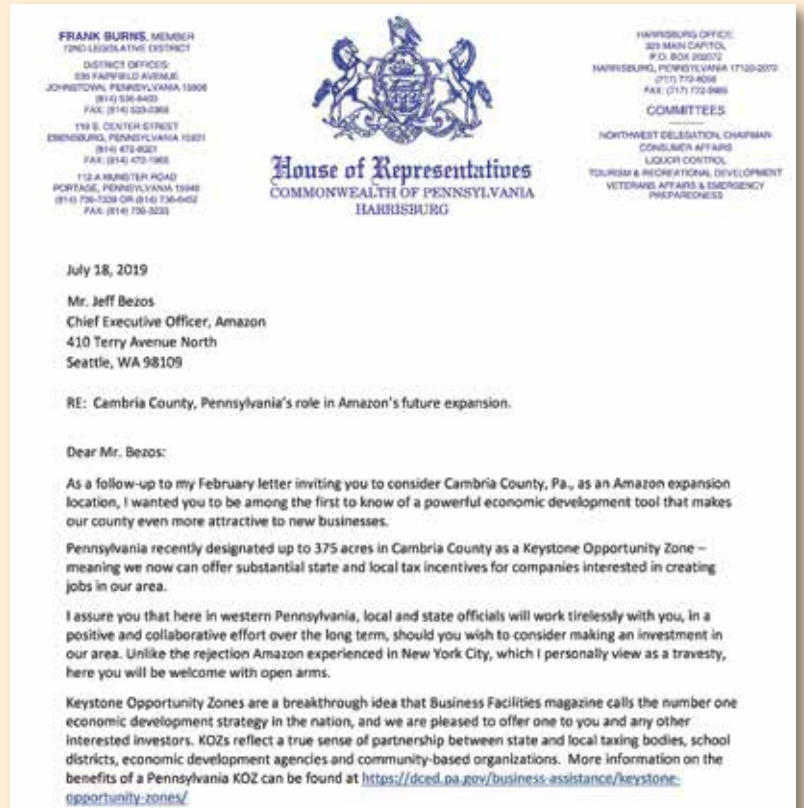
Burns knows Cambria County needs jobs, secures economic development incentives

Rep. Burns knows that Cambria County desperately needs good-paying jobs, so in this year's budget negotiations he worked hard to secure an economic development tool mostly used in higher-population areas.

Although it was a bipartisan effort, Rep. Burns spearheaded and worked with legislative leaders to secure a unique Keystone Opportunity Zone for the county. Although up to 375 acres will be eligible, the acreage can, for the first time, be broken down into parcels of fewer than 10 acres, putting single neighborhood downtown sections in play for economic revitalization.

The KOZ program attempts to attract businesses by offering substantial state and local tax benefits in exchange for meaningful job creation in underdeveloped and underutilized areas.

Rep. Burns will not leave one stone unturned when it comes to finding ways to make Cambria economically competitive with urban and suburban areas.



Burns follows up, informs Amazon CEO of Cambria County KOZ

Rep. Burns hasn't given up on convincing Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos to bring some of the 25,000 jobs rejected by New York City – which pay an AVERAGE \$150,000 per year – to Cambria County.

Following up on his first outreach to Bezos in February, Rep. Burns reached out again in July to let Bezos know of the availability of 375 acres of Keystone Opportunity Zone granted the county during this year's budget negotiations.

Rep. Burns enlisted the help of House Democratic Leader Frank Dermody, who recently visited the 72nd Legislative District to view its needs firsthand, to make sure the KOZ became reality.

By aggressively marketing the KOZ to Bezos, Rep. Burns believes it also lets other businesses in Pennsylvania, the United States and the world know of the program's existence and the opportunities available here.



Burns sought to return part of \$800 million surplus to taxpayers, but Harrisburg refused

As the state moved toward a \$800 million-plus surplus for the fiscal year that ended in June, Rep. Burns introduced H.B. 1663 seeking to steer most of that money toward property tax relief.

With 25 percent of any surplus already going to boost the Rainy Day Fund, per legislative mandate, Rep. Burns thought it best to direct anything above that toward reducing onerous school property taxes that cause financial pain for many households.

Rep. Burns' preference was a stark contrast to that of the governor, who wanted to put the entire surplus into the Rainy Day Fund. Rep. Burns disagreed, as he believes that just creates another pot of money for political leaders to play with down the line.



"In Cambria County and across Pennsylvania, one of the big concerns of the people who pay the bills is high property taxes. They have our collective ear on this issue - but the difference is, I'm listening and taking action."

- Rep. Burns

If the state routinely asks taxpayers to pay a little more when times are bad, Rep. Burns believes it should also allow them to pay a little less when times are good. However, that credo was not embraced by legislative leaders or the governor, who elected to keep the full surplus to expand existing programs and fund new initiatives.

As a fiscal conservative, Rep. Burns believes that state government will find a justification to spend any money that it keeps, which is why he wanted to remove that possibility from the get-go by shipping it to the Property Tax Relief Fund.



Legislation introduced by Rep. Burns led to the naming of the Pfc. Nick Kozorosky Memorial Bridge over Route 219 in Cambria County, honoring a World War II soldier from Ebensburg who gave his life in Germany while serving with the Army's 101st Airborne Division. The Kozorosky family joined Rep. Burns at this dedication ceremony.

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Burns: Inspector general report shows need to get tough on welfare fraud



A longtime supporter of cracking down on welfare fraud, Rep. Burns was upset at the scope of abuse when the state Inspector General charged 178 people with fraud that cost the state nearly \$890,000.

Rep. Burns is a staunch believer that the legislature needs to close loopholes that make it easy for people to scam the system. That's why he has sponsored a variety of welfare reform bills, including measures that would require drug testing for individuals to receive public assistance and would place photo IDs on welfare benefits cards.

Rep. Burns believes these commonsense changes would make it harder for undeserving people to take money from your pocket and put it in theirs.

"How is it possible so many people are scamming the welfare system of close to \$900,000? It's a slap in the face to the people who truly need assistance and to the hardworking taxpayers of Pennsylvania." - Rep. Frank Burns.

Rep. Burn's welfare baseline begins and ends with the stand that those who can work should be working, not living off the system.

Burns fights for Pa. workers, wants to halt hiring of illegals

Seeking to protect U.S. workers' jobs and prevent undocumented workers from being taken advantage of, Rep. Burns voted in favor of a bill that would require construction companies to use the E-verify system to make sure hirings are on the up and up.



Rep. Burns has consistently championed cracking down on companies that play the system by hiring undocumented workers who are willing to work for less. He believes these unscrupulous firms fatten their bottom lines by stocking up on workers who won't ask questions or complain to authorities for fear of being discovered.

"This bill is about saving Pennsylvania jobs by penalizing unscrupulous contractors who hire illegal workers in our state. It's time we hold corporate America accountable for profiting from illegal immigration." - Rep. Burns.

According to a 2018 article in The New York Times, undocumented immigrant workers account for 15 percent of those employed in construction – or about 1.35 million workers nationally.

Managed by the Department of Homeland Security, the E-verify program is an internet-based system that allows businesses to determine the eligibility of their employees to work in the United States. In Pennsylvania, more than 17,000 employers have used it to verify more than 630,000 newly hired workers this year.

Burns supports welfare-to-work, not welfare-for-life

Rep. Burns was one of the earliest and enthusiastic supporters of a bill that would move welfare recipients to full-time jobs in one year, using a pilot program.

As one of the few Democrats to sponsor the "welfare to work" bill, Rep. Burns did so because he shares the prevailing thought of his district – which is that able-bodied people shouldn't get to stay on welfare forever.

"The vast majority of people in my district feel as I do, which is that people who can work should be working, not living off of the system in perpetuity." - Rep. Frank Burns.

The bill that gained Rep. Burns' favor would create a public-private partnership that would let welfare recipients continue to collect benefits while gradually phasing in pay for their full-time work.

Employers would initially pay program participants for 20 hours per week, rising to 30 hours after six months and ending at 40 hours – at which point their cash benefits from the public dime would be cut off.

As a fiscal conservative acutely aware that these are your tax dollars, Rep. Burns strives on many fronts to make sure only those people who truly need welfare are receiving benefits.



Burns protects hundreds of coal jobs; votes to double tax credit

Providing a boost to the three Cambria County power-generating facilities that cull fuel from old coal piles, Rep. Burns voted to provide an additional \$10 million in tax credits to clean up such refuse.

By doubling the size of the program from \$10 million to \$20 million, Rep. Burns believes plants burning coal waste will be able to remain competitive as they clean up gob piles that currently blight Pennsylvania's landscape.

House Bill 262 also extends the tax credit period by 10 years, keeping it on the books through 2036.


A strong supporter of coal and coal miners, Rep. Burns wants to make sure it remains a viable electricity-generating option and the industry's workers have jobs for years to come.




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FIRST 150 DAYS of
LEGISLATIVE SESSION



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
FRANK BURNS



72nd
District

LEGISLATION



- ✓ 7 Introduced
- ✓ 3 Passed Unanimously

VOTES CAST



304

MONEY BROUGHT BACK TO THE DISTRICT



\$6,540,000

CONSTITUENT ISSUES RESOLVED



3,119

 @RepFrankBurns