



State Representative to the 50th Legislative District

Pam SNYDER



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Spring 2018

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

Jobs saved! Consol secures permits at Bailey Mine

Lengthy negotiations helped save 600 jobs in Greene County

In early November, I was able to announce that Consol Energy was permitted to mine new sections at the Bailey Mine in western Greene County, protecting the livelihoods of as many as 600 workers for up to five years.

The permit approval was well worth the months of negotiations with Consol, the state Department of Environmental Protection and the administration of Gov. Tom Wolf.

Besides permits for new longwall sections, the permits announced in November will enable operations to continue in other panels, which should ensure mining at the Wind Ridge complex for as long as five years.

Coal will continue to be our region's economic engine. It was a nail-biting, months-long marathon, but many people

worked long and hard to ensure that the Bailey Mine received this new lease on life. The working families in my district will always be my top priority, and the permits are a big win for them.

It was a far-better conclusion than the furloughs that seemed imminent as the permit reviews and lawsuits threatened production at the mine, the largest-producing underground coal mining operation in North America.

In October, I helped win House adoption of H.R. 576, which urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to support policies and tariffs that would ensure that fuel-secure generation resources – such as coal – are properly compensated for the reliability and resiliency they provide the nation's electric system.



My two-pronged campaign to improve broadband internet service

Effort targets Microsoft initiative, includes four-bill legislative package

Like most of you, I've had it with inadequate internet service.

In July, I set my sights on changing it and launched an appeal to Microsoft to include Pennsylvania in its broadband expansion effort.

I was not about to be deterred when Microsoft unveiled plans to expand broadband connectivity by employing unused TV spectrum but did not include Pennsylvania among the 12 states where it will launch pilot programs.

I soon hope to have positive news to report on Microsoft including Pennsylvania in its Rural Airband Initiative.

Southwestern Pennsylvania is a perfect fit, and increasing broadband connectivity would enable more rural Pennsylvanians to tap into critical cyber-benefits through faster web downloads, improved video streaming and service capable of supporting multiple users in a household.

I've also teamed with a Republican colleague to propose a four-bill package to expand high-speed broadband internet service in Pennsylvania. The legislation features:

- H.R. 429, which would establish a bipartisan, bicameral legislative commission to recommend improvements to the deployment of high-speed broadband services in unserved and underserved areas;

- H.R. 430, which would call for an investigation and audits into non-rural telecommunications carriers' compliance with state laws regarding internet service;
- H.R. 431, which would call for an audit of the state Education Department's Educational Technology Fund,

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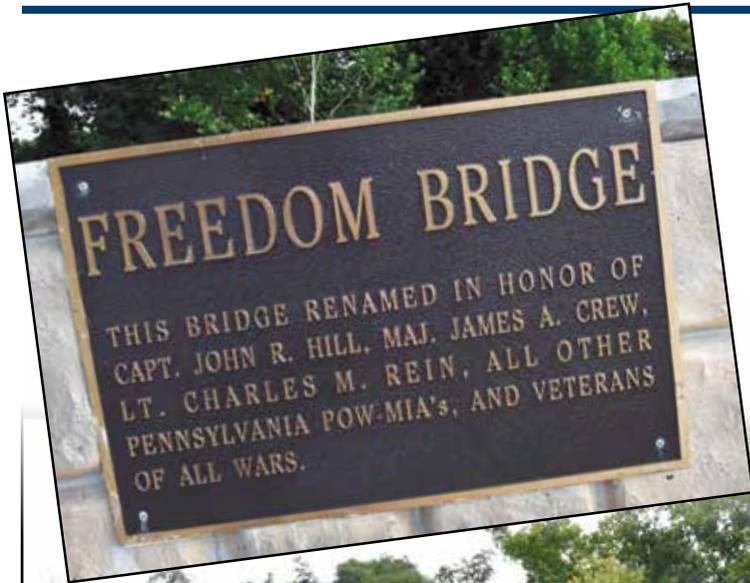
Champs!



I was proud to praise the exploits of our PIAA Class A state champs – the Lady Pioneers of West Greene High School – in the House chamber in June. The team fought back from a 7-0 deficit to win the school's first state championship in any sport.

Warm response!

In mid-December, my staff and I wrapped up our fifth-annual winter clothing drive, and the donations of new and gently used winter garments were once again tremendous. What you see here is just what we collected in the Carmichaels office, and equally impressive donations were collected at my Waynesburg and Brownsville offices. I delivered the donations to the Masontown Helping Hands Ministry, the Waynesburg Salvation Army and Crosskeys Human Services in Brownsville.



Bill honors local Vietnam War hero

The state Senate should soon take action on my legislation that would name a Greene County span as the Private First Class Brent A. McClellan Memorial Bridge.



The measure, H.B. 952, already has received unanimous support from the House and the Senate Transportation Committee.

Army Private Brent McClellan gave his life on behalf of his country more than 51 years ago, and this tribute is long overdue. With the Senate's concurrence, the bridge along Castile Run Road spanning the South Fork of Tenmile Creek between Jefferson Township and Clarksville Borough will forever honor this young patriot.

McClellan was killed Feb. 28, 1966, in an ambush in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam, while assigned to 1st Platoon, B Company, 5th Cavalry in the Army's 1st Cavalry Division.

Brent was just 21, a native of Clarksville, a graduate of Jefferson-Morgan High School, and gone from our midst far too soon. I remember how news of his death shook the community.

Naming the bridge over Chartiers Road will remind all of us of the sacrifice made on our behalf.

Freedom Bridge

After four years of construction, I was proud to help unveil the \$15.1 million Freedom Bridge in Waynesburg in late August. Completion of the bridge freed thousands of drivers from detours and expanded the highway to four lanes.

Legislation taking aim at local concerns

I'm preparing legislation on a wide range of issues and concerns affecting southwestern Pennsylvania. Here's a sampling of the bills I have introduced:

Protecting children: I've teamed up with Rep. Tina Davis, D-Bucks, to introduce H.B. 1882, which would restrict convicted sex offenders from living near schools. Under the law, a sex offender registered under Megan's Law would not be allowed to live within 2,500 feet of a public, private or parochial school, pre-school or childcare facility in Pennsylvania.

Grace period for taxpayers: My H.B. 1859 would provide taxpayers delinquent on the payment of a tax liability with a 60-day grace period after notification before they are required to pay applicable penalties or interest.

Better budgeting rules: My H.R. 572 would give House committees more input into the budgeting process by providing 60 days for the panels to review funding aspects of state agencies within the jurisdiction of relevant committees.

Early and no-excuse voting: Pennsylvania voters would have access to early voting and no-excuse absentee balloting under my H.B. 75. It would authorize early voting eight days before Election Day and would provide no-excuse absentee balloting by extending eligibility to any qualified elector regardless of the reason they are unable to vote on Election Day.

More tax breaks for disabled veterans: I want to expand the number of disabled veterans eligible to receive real estate tax reductions. Currently, only veterans classified as 100 percent disabled receive an exemption from paying property taxes on their primary home. My H.B. 78 would match tax breaks

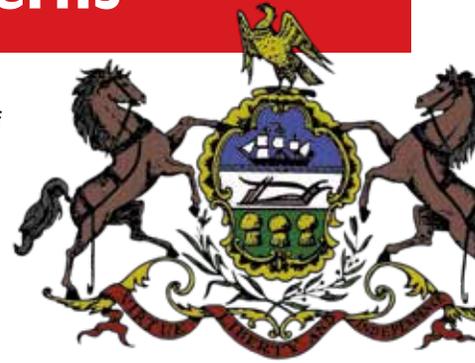
to the veteran's disability percentage. For example, if a veteran is categorized as 50 percent disabled, he or she would be entitled to a 50 percent reduction in real estate tax owed.

Boosting local highway maintenance: My H.B. 1064 would increase the annual maintenance payments from the state to local municipalities to \$6,000 a mile and adjust the payments annually for inflation. The current rate – \$4,000 a mile – has not been increased since 2006 and is inadequate to cover the costs of maintaining our local highways.

Farmer's market signs: My H.B. 212 would benefit farmers and residents seeking fresh produce by allowing signs advertising farmer's markets or roadside farm stands to be posted on state roadways that do not receive federal funding without a PennDOT permit. The signs also would be exempt from the annual permit fee assessed by PennDOT.

Help for fire companies: We must help our brave volunteer firefighters focus more on saving lives instead of worrying about the next fund-raising event. My H.B. 698 would permit fire relief funds to be used to pay for basic utilities such as gas, electric, water and sewage.

Mental health services for minors: My H.B. 381 would clarify when a minor's consent is needed for mental health examinations and treatment and recovery services. It was passed unanimously out of the House Human Services Committee in March and called up for consideration by the full House in early April.



More electronics collections planned

My staff and I and the Greene County Commissioners held four highly successful electronics collections in 2017 that safely disposed of dozens of tons of electronic devices. This year it will be held at the same location from noon to 3 p.m. on March 28, May 30, Aug. 15 and Oct. 24. Visit my webpage to learn more.



Successful Senior Fair!



The Greene Senior Fair that I helped sponsor in October was an unbridled success. Hundreds of area residents turned out for free flu shots, health screenings, information on important state services and programs and a good time with refreshments, drawings and entertainment.



Sign up for email updates

You can sign up to receive my email alerts by visiting my website at www.pahouse.com/Snyder.

Click the envelope and fill out the form.

Signing up for my emails will enable you to receive notices about important issues that matter to you, including:

- Updates on legislation
- News and events in the district
- Other relevant government-related information.

You can also stay updated on social media. Just "like" my legislative Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/RepSnyder. I'm also on Twitter: @RepSnyder.



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House approves my bill to add motorcycles to state lemon law



I have great news for all my biker friends – the state House of Representatives has overwhelmingly approved my measure that would cover motorcycles under Pennsylvania’s Automobile Lemon Law.

House Bill 74 would ensure that if you buy or lease a new motorcycle with defects affecting its safety, value or use, then the manufacturer should fix it – the same as with cars and trucks. Simply put, Pennsylvania’s Lemon Law protections should apply to motorcycles.

I’ve been fighting for this consumer protection since becoming a state lawmaker, and the House’s 187-4 vote puts the measure before the state Senate for consideration.

The bill would include motorcycles in the definition of a “new motor vehicle” and require manufacturers to correct any defect that substantially impairs the use, value or safety of the vehicle and occurs within one year following delivery, within the first 12,000 miles of use or during the term of the warranty, whichever may first occur.

It’s time to get this done, and I look forward to the measure garnering more bipartisan support in the Senate.



New Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications, help available

My constituent-service offices have received Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program applications for eligible residents to begin claiming rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2017, and the staff is ready to help!

The rebate program benefits income-eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older.

Claimants must reapply for rebates every year because rebates are based on annual income and property taxes or rent paid annually. Spouses, personal representatives or estates may file rebate claims on behalf of deceased claimants who lived at least one day in 2017 and met all other eligibility criteria.

The rebates normally are distributed beginning on July 1. So, the sooner you file, the sooner you will receive your money! The deadline to apply, for now, is June 30, 2018, but it is routinely extended until the end of the year.

Please ignore offers to assist with filing the application for a fee. My offices offer help at no charge, and the Revenue Department does not charge a fee to process your application.

Applications also are available online at www.revenue.pa.gov or by calling 1-888-222-9190.

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a 6-year education-technology program financed by non-rural telecommunication carriers; and

- H.B. 1642, which would direct the Department of General Services to inventory all state communication towers, poles, buildings and facilities to leverage those assets with the effort to expand high-speed broadband internet service to unserved and underserved areas.

Rural areas deserve the affordable and adequate service that 99 percent of urban residents and businesses already enjoy, and the four bills we’re introducing should help bring about needed changes and improvements.