



Don White

STATE SENATOR



Reports to the People

41ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT • FALL 2005

Dear Neighbor,

Since the past few months have been extremely active in Harrisburg and throughout the 41st Senatorial District, I felt that this would be an excellent time to provide you with an update.

As always, if you have any questions or comments about anything in this newsletter or any state-related matter, call my Indiana Office at 724-357-0151/toll-free 866-357-0151, my Kittanning Office at 724-543-3026/toll-free 866-366-9448 (1-866-DON-WHITE), or my Murrysville Office at 724-327-2422/toll-free 866-736-9448 (1-866-SEN-WHITE).

Regards,

Senator White Proposes Steady Fire/EMS Funding

Responding quickly to a State Supreme Court decision striking a funding provision for volunteer emergency responders from the state gaming law, Senator Don White introduced Senate Bill 846, a measure that would dedicate \$25 million annually for fire fighters and emergency medical service operations.

"This allocation for our volunteer fire departments and ambulance corps was one of the provisions of the gaming law that received strong support during legislative deliberations," said Senator White, Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee. "I am extremely disappointed that it did not stand up to the Supreme Court's standards. My legislation will address that by setting the funding up on its own merits."

The General Assembly has provided \$25 million for emergency responders in recent budgets; but with the

Supreme Court's ruling, there is no indication – nor guarantee – that the allocation will be a recurring line item.

"The Court's ruling means that gaming is coming to Pennsylvania. Therefore, it is incumbent that we act now to ensure that a portion of the

revenue generated by those enterprises is invested in our communities," Senator White said. "As we have seen in the past, this \$25 million provides a substantial boost for our volunteer services and gives them the resources to improve their facilities and upgrade their equipment."

DON WHITE VOTES AGAINST, DOESN'T ACCEPT PAY RAISE

Senator Don White issued this statement after passage of the legislative pay raise:

"I want to make it clear that I voted against House Bill 1521 and refused to accept the unvouchered expenses. I made a pledge to the people of the 41st Senatorial District to represent them and their interests in Harrisburg. With that in mind, I clearly stated my intention (when I went to the people asking for their support) that I would not support a pay increase. I stand by that position today. With my vote against House Bill 1521, I have fulfilled my promise to the people of the 41st District, and I hope that I have upheld their trust."

New, Expanding Businesses Spark Corporate Campus Growth

With two new businesses coming in and two existing businesses expanding, Corporate Campus is thriving.

“This is an exciting time as there are so many great things happening here at Corporate Campus. The challenge before us now is to continue working to prolong that streak well into the future,” Senator Don White said. “Combining direct financial assistance from grants with tax breaks and other incentives, Corporate Campus had a chance to see if that movie line “build it and they will come” could stand up to a real life test. Today, we have built it

and are continuing to build – and, yes, the businesses are coming and so are the jobs.”

Senator White recently visited the business park for a ceremony to announce that Dietrich Industries and CQ Hardwood Finishers would be setting up operations in the Burrell Township complex.

CQ Hardwood is building a 20,000 square-foot facility and expects to create about 20 new jobs. Dietrich will add 20 new jobs to the 50 current workers who will move into a 30,000 square-foot facility that is currently under construction, thanks to a \$1.5 million grant that Senator White

worked to secure.

Even as the new companies are preparing to set up shop in Corporate Campus, two existing tenants are expanding.

WyoTech, an automotive technology school with a staff of 100 serving 1,200 students, is building a new 90,000 square-foot auto diesel school, which is expected to add 150 students and 15 jobs. Learning Sciences International, a provider of on-line teacher certification courses, recently revamped its facilities and is expecting to add to its existing 20-member staff.

Belmont Complex Receives \$500k Grant

A major state grant will help Armstrong County improve one of its “treasures,” according to state Senator Don White, who secured the funding.

Senator White recently presented a \$500,000 check to the Armstrong County Commissioners to help pay for the restoration work and improve-

ments to the Belmont Complex project in East Franklin Township.

“The Belmont Complex is a county treasure and a major recreational resource for people around the region,” Senator White said. “This is a significant and well-deserved investment by the state. This grant will pay dividends well into the future, and I

was more than happy to help the county commissioners secure it.”

The Belmont Complex, the site of an ice rink and a swimming pool, is the largest and most heavily used recreation facility of its type in the County. Built in the 1960’s, the County acquired the Belmont Complex in 1979 as part of a successful strategy to insure the long term viability of the facility. In 2003, the pool house and locker room building was destroyed by fire. The keystone of the Belmont Complex project was the construction of a 9,600 square foot pool house and community center at the Belmont Arena.

Senator Don White recently presented a state check for \$500,000 to the Armstrong County Commissioners for the Belmont Complex project. Congressman John Murtha (center) and State Representative Jeffrey Pyle (right of Congressman Murtha) also participated in the event.



Senator White Urges Reconsideration of Polyvision Layoffs

The following is the text of a letter Senator Don White sent to Mike Dunn, Polyvision CEO, regarding the company's Dixonville facility:

Dear Mr. Dunn:

News of recent information given to employees at your Dixonville, PA facility is very disturbing. Through conversations with leaders of the Carpenters Union, I am told a decision to consolidate production lines and cut jobs may be made in the very near future.

As you know, I personally met with you and your corporate representatives on various occasions in recent months and have repeatedly offered my assistance to work with local and state economic development officials in the hopes of making Polyvision's Dixonville facility more competitive in the global economy. The initial reaction by your company was favorable, but apparently insincere.

Before you make any decision to reduce employment at your

Dixonville facility, I again request an opportunity to assemble a team of economic development experts and immediately meet with you personally. With your cooperation, we may be able to find a solution that improves the plant's efficiency while maintaining your current labor force.

It is no secret that the employees of the Dixonville facility are some of the most skilled in the world. They produce a high-quality product, take pride in their work and have a true loyalty to Polyvision. If a decision is made to cut jobs at Dixonville, it will have a very detrimental effect on the local economy and be devastating to the many families that depend on Polyvision for their livelihood - the same families that have loyally served your company for many years.

I eagerly await your response.

Sincerely,
Don White
Senator, 41st District

Senators Receive Report on Status of Emergency Services



Senator Don White is working to implement recommendations to help firefighters and ambulance services.

Recognizing the major issues facing Pennsylvania's firefighters and ambulance services, the Senate is poised to consider recommendations made by a bi-partisan commission established last year to study emergency services across the Commonwealth.

Senator Don White, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, participated in a recent news conference to formally accept the report and to discuss the Senate agenda for addressing the Commission's recommendations.

The 25-member Commission, chaired by Dr. William F. Jenaway, CFPS, CFO, was established under the provisions of Senate Resolution 60 of 2003, a measure supported by Senator White.

"The Commission had a daunting task in attempting to compile a report that comprehensively detailed the issues facing emergency services providers across the Commonwealth," Senator White said. "Recognizing that, the Commission wisely focused on specific concerns such as recruitment and delivery of services, issues that seemed to be most common among fire departments and ambulance corps across the state. Through that focus, the Commission developed a set of recommendations that will serve us well as the first step toward providing needed assistance to Pennsylvania's emergency service providers."

Burrell Township Sewer Authority receives \$1.05m grant

The Burrell Township (Indiana County) Sewer Authority will receive a \$1.05 million state grant to expand service into the Shearwood Terrace Area.

The funding, provided by the Department of Community and Economic Development's Penn Works Program, will allow the Authority to accommodate the only section of the township currently without public sewer access.

"This is a substantial state investment in our community, and one which will certainly improve the quality of life for the residents and the outlook of the businesses that are currently not served by the Authority," said Senator White. "When this project is completed next fall, it will benefit the current residents and create exciting new opportunities for economic development and job growth."

Initially, fifty-five residential properties and two businesses will be served by the new system. The new sewer system will also help Conveyor Services Corp. of Blairsville develop two properties (120 Airport Road and 70 Industrial Park Boulevard) as viable manufacturing and/or administrative office locations.

State Approves Saxonburg's Financing Request

The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENN-VEST) recently approved a \$24.9 million low-interest loan for a major sewer expansion project proposed by the Saxonburg Area Authority (SAA).

"I am pleased that the Saxonburg Area Authority's application was approved and that it will receive this

important financing," said Senator Don White, a member of the PENN-VEST Board.

SAA is proposing a major expansion of its sanitary sewage system, which when completed would provide service to residents of six municipalities in southern Butler County and northern Allegheny County.

The system currently serves the residents of Saxonburg, as well as those living in Clinton and Jefferson townships in Butler County. Through the expansion project, SAA is looking to add 7,400 residences in Penn and Middlesex townships, Butler County and in Richland Township, Allegheny County.

Senate Adopts Call for Study of Veterans' Programs

The Senate recently adopted a measure, proposed by Senator Don White, calling for a comprehensive review of all state, county and local veterans' programs and services. Senate Resolution 131 directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) to conduct the review and provide a report of its findings to the General Assembly by Dec. 15, 2006.

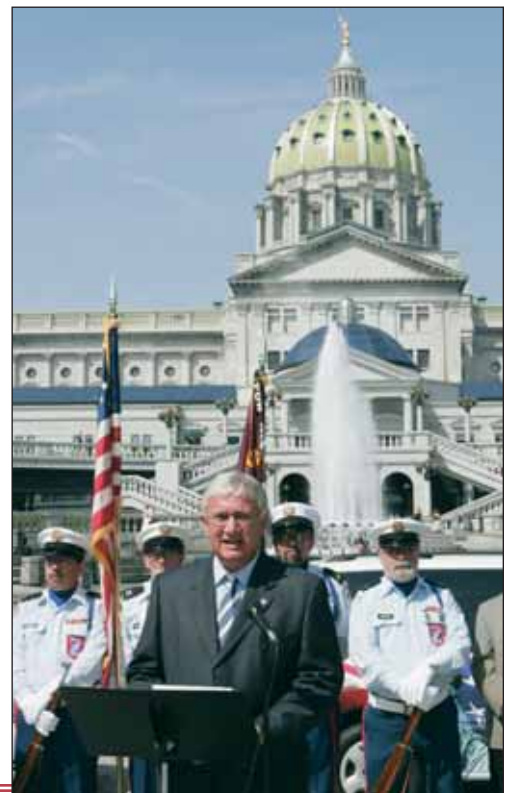
Currently, most of the veterans' programs offered in Pennsylvania fall under the direction of the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; the Governor's Veterans Outreach and Assistance Centers; or county-level veterans' affairs offices.

"SR 131 directs LBFC to look at all of these operations and the services and benefits they offer with the goal of streamlining and improving the way we assist veterans and their families

in Pennsylvania," said Senator White, the Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

"This study includes the proposal to establish a separate Department of Veterans Affairs, but it goes well beyond that," Senator White continued. "SR 131 directs the LBFC to explore a broad range of options of how best to organize, fund, staff, and operate veterans' programs in order to provide the best possible services in the most cost effective and efficient manner."

Senator Don White participates in a recent "Drive off" ceremony at the Capitol, a program for new vans for the Disabled American Veterans.



Work Ends on Route 22, Work Begins on Route 22

Major highway improvement projects rarely move quickly in Pennsylvania, as the behind-the-scenes work to meet regulatory requirements and lock up funding can often take longer than the actual physical labor.

That's what made a recent joint ribbon cutting and groundbreaking event in Export so special and enjoyable, according to Senator Don White.

Senator White was among a number of state and local officials attending a dual-purpose ribbon cutting for the newly-opened B01 section of Route 22 and the groundbreaking for the B02 section of the highway.

"Today is a great day for Murrysville, Westmoreland County and, in fact, our entire region," Senator White said during the event. "The opening of B01 gives us an idea of what we can expect in the future when this highway is actually up to

standard and can serve its proper role as a major artery that supports our region and as a proponent, instead of a deterrent, to economic development."

Another milestone in the Renew 22 Project was reached with the completion of Section B01 in Murrysville. After 2 years of work, at a cost of \$29.8 million, the 2.8-mile stretch from the Allegheny County line to the Cozy Inn Cut-off has been upgraded and improved.

Completion of B01 sets the stage for the start of work on the \$43.9 million B02 stage. Under this project, approximately 4.1 miles of Route 22, from just east of the Cozy Inn cut-off to the Route 22/66 interchange, will be widened to provide four traffic lanes with a median divider. Openings in the median will be provided to allow for left turn lanes at intersections.



Senator Don White and Murrysville Mayor Joyce Somers (right) turn shovelfuls of dirt during the groundbreaking ceremony for the B-02 project in Murrysville.

SENATOR WHITE GOES TO THE DOGS (AND CATS)

State Senator Don White literally went to the dogs (and cats) recently as he visited the Orphans of the Storm Animal Shelter in Rayburn Township, Armstrong County, to present that organization with a \$25,000 grant. "Orphans of the Storm plans to use the money to expand its facilities – something that, unfortunately, is necessary," Senator White said. "In the best of all worlds, we wouldn't need this shelter. However, for the hundreds of stray and abandoned animals that it saves each year and for those that are adopted by loving owners, Orphans of the Storm is a godsend. It truly deserves our support."



Photo courtesy of the Leader-Times

Dielectric Bringing 200 Jobs to Kittanning

A cutting edge, high-tech company is moving to Kittanning, bringing 50 jobs and planning to add 150 more.

Dielectric Solutions will be moving into the former 5 Rubber Plant under an arrangement supported by the efforts of Senator Don White.

"They needed an existing facility in an area that had a highly motivated workforce," Senator White said. "Fortunately, they chose Kittanning and Armstrong County and will provide close to 200 good-paying, family-sustaining jobs over the next few years."

Dielectric makes a lightweight glass fiber fabric that is used in many advanced electronics products.



CLIP AND SAVE



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Constituent Service is Job Number 1

As your State Senator, my job has two very important roles. On one hand, I am your voice in Harrisburg, reviewing bills that come before the Senate and the various committees on which I serve.

On the other hand, I also have the duty of making state government more accessible to my constituents. My district offices are your one-stop shop for assistance with many state services and programs. A complete listing of the offices, with addresses and phone numbers, is included on this page.

Some of the services available include:

- Assistance with problems that you may encounter when dealing with

state agencies

- Copies of bills before the General Assembly, new laws, and status reports on legislation
- Pennsylvania tax forms and assistance with state tax questions
- Informational brochures and forms such as:
 - Notary Public applications
 - PHEAA applications and information
 - Pennsylvania road maps
 - Property Tax and Rent Rebate Applications
 - PACE/PACENET Applications
 - Consumer Protection books
 - Senior citizen information

Keeping up with Senator White

Straight Talk with State Senator Don White is a half-hour program dedicated to keeping the people of the 41st District informed on state issues as well as events in Harrisburg and in their communities.

The show airs at various times, so check your local listings:

- **AT&T Greensburg, Channel 8**
- **Family Life TV, Channel 5 (Adelphia/Kittanning)**
- **Municipality of Murrysville, Channel 18**
- **WIUP-TV, Indiana University TV, Channel 20**

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