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What's Happening in Harrisburg

No More Tax Loopholes



In late January, Senator John P. Blake and I held an important hearing on combating corporate tax-avoidance and ensuring corporations are paying their fair share! Pennsylvania is in desperate need of tax fairness. It's frustrating to see corporations sheltering profits through avenues like the Delaware loophole, which then leaves small businesses and working people with the majority of the state's tax burden. Amy Gill, the Deputy Secretary of Tax Policy for the Department of Revenue, predicted that (using an average combined reporting rate) Pennsylvania could reap an additional 29% (\$677 million) in corporate tax revenue.

- Nearly 71% of corporations operating in PA do not pay any corporate tax.
- The working class has been taxed at a rate nearly 3x their income as a result of corporations not paying their taxes
- By 2003, 84% of all corporations were paying only \$1,000 in taxes - that's less than what a Pennsylvania family earning \$36,000 a year pays in annual income taxes.

Senator Blake and I are exploring legislation that would hold mega corporations accountable by closing loopholes that enable them to skirt their share of the tax burden.

[Click here to view the entire policy hearing.](#)

Clean Air is a Right



In January, I held a press conference with PennEnvironment in which we called for immediate action to address the dangerous air quality we have in our Commonwealth.

Our state constitution contains the strongest environmental rights amendment in the country. Article 1, Section 27 says: "the people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment."

Yet, over 4,800 Pennsylvanians died prematurely in 2018 due to air pollution, the most per capita in the nation and third highest in total, according to a [new study](#) published in the science journal *Nature*.

In our District, the Mariner East 2 pipeline is undoubtedly a health and safety issue. The toxic emissions it releases yields devastating effects on people's health and well-being for an unprecedented amount of time.

This is why I offered Senate Bill 967, Air Pollution Control Act, the companion bill to Rep. Austin Davis' House Bill 1752.

This bill would raise air quality fines to match the EPA federal level. It would also enact a municipal warning system and require all facilities to develop and maintain a notification plan for surrounding communities in the event of an air pollution incident, so communities are not left in the dark about their public health concerns.

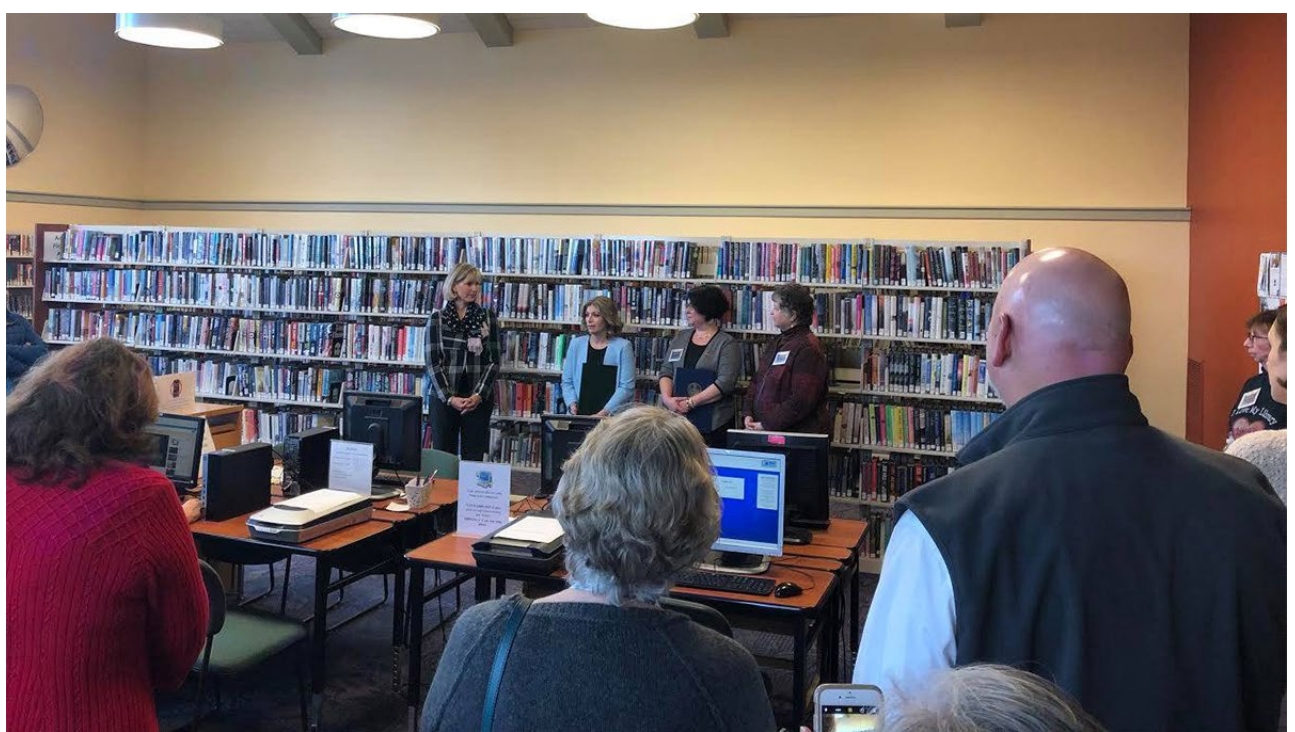
Everyone deserves clean air and I will continue to fight to guarantee this right for all Pennsylvanians.

[Click here](#) to view my remarks from the press conference.

In the District



I attended the first meeting of the Association of Professional South Asian American Women (APSAAW) hosted by Vibha Agrawal in Upper Providence. Our conversation focused on my journey to the Senate and how as women, we, need to develop a support network that encourages us to be a strong voice in the workplace and in our community.



Happy 110th birthday to the Spring City Public Library! I was honored to attend your celebration and present a citation recognizing your achievements. The Spring City Public Library continues to be a cornerstone of the community due largely to the dedication of its volunteers, donors, and board members.



On Valentine's Day, I attended the wedding of Margo and Joe who met at Whitehall Inn, which is a permanent supportive housing apartment complex located in East Vincent for veterans in need. I first met Margo and Joe during my monthly "Coffee with Katie" town halls at Whitehall Inn and I was deeply honored to be there for them on their special day.

Announcements

Vote By Mail

VOTING BY MAIL-IN BALLOT OR ABSENTEE BALLOT

VotesPA.com/MailBallot

This year PA voters can skip the lines on election day and apply for a mail-in ballot without a reason. My office has brochures that explain the voting changes, or you can go to votespa.com/mailballot to learn more.

REAL ID Event

KATIE MUTH
PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR

REP JOE WEBSTER
HOUSE DISTRICT 150

REAL I.D. INFO SESSION

**Friday
February 21
1:00 - 2:30pm**

**Lower Providence
Community Library
50 Parklane Drive
Norristown, PA 19403**

The presentation will detail the step-by-step application process, list required documents needed in explicit detail, and consist of a Q&A.

There will be NO on-site review or approval/verification of documents.

Want to learn more about REAL I.D.? This Friday, Rep. Joe Webster and I, in coordination with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDot), are hosting an informational event that will detail the step-by-step application process, list required documents needed, and provide a Q&A section to address any additional questions.

Note: there will be NO on-site review or approval/verification of documents.

For more information, call 610-792-2137. □



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KATIE MUTH

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PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR

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