



Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs

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June 16, 2008

The Honorable John Pippy
Chairman, Senate Urban Affairs and Housing Committee
Senate Box 203037
168 Main Capitol Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3037

Dear Senator Pippy,

I am contacting you today on behalf of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs and its over 900 member boroughs and their roughly 10,000 elected officials across this great Commonwealth. In particular PSAB would want you to be aware of our full support of Senator Rhoades' **Senate Bill 1291**, the Neighborhood Blight Reclamation Act of 2008. We wish to thank Senator Rhoades for his foresight and leadership on the issue of cleaning up our communities and making them more livable.

Beginning in 2005, PSAB served on Senator Rhoades' Blight Task Force, which studied remedies on how best to combat the problem of blight. One of the final products is the bill before you for your consideration. PSAB believes this bill represents the best chance to reclaim our communities from blight and spur revitalization.

Blight is not just an urban problem. It affects all communities in the Commonwealth, even the rural areas. There is a common misconception that blight does not affect a neighborhood because it lacks blighted properties. Blight affects these neighborhoods and the whole community when municipalities must divert precious resources to deal with these eyesores. Blighted properties owners often times leave the property with tax liens on the property leaving the taxpayers stuck with the bill. All of these factors contribute to a drag on revitalization and livable communities.

The General Assembly has over the years enacted some important legislation to help municipalities effectively remedy blight. However, much more is needed. Senate Bill 1291 contains new ideas and ideas from the past. We urge you to act quickly on this bill to help give our communities more tools to combat blight and the slumlords who create them. If you have any questions or would like to discuss PSAB's support in the battle against blight please feel free to call me anytime at 717-236-9526 x21 or email at etroxell@boroughs.org.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Troxell
Director, PSAB Government Affairs

cc: Members, Senate Urban Affairs & Housing Committee