



February 15, 2012

Sen. Dominic Pileggi
Senate Majority Floor Leader
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Harrisburg, PA 17120-3009

Sen. Jay Costa
Senate Minority Floor Leader
Senate Box 203043
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Hon. Mike Turzai
House Majority Floor Leader
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PO Box 202028
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Hon. Frank Dermody
House Minority Floor Leader
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PO Box 202033
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2033

Sen. Pileggi, Sen. Costa, Rep. Turzai, and Rep. Dermody:

Over the past two years, 30 municipalities across Pennsylvania have worked closely with law enforcement to craft local ordinances that require gun owners to notify police when they discover that a gun has been lost or stolen. According to FBI data, one out of every four criminal gun trafficking investigations involves stolen guns. Laws that require reporting of lost and stolen guns help to stop straw purchasers from buying guns for criminals and then falsely claiming their guns were stolen when questioned by police.

To address this problem, local elected officials and police departments have taken it upon themselves to adopt common-sense reporting requirements. These local laws do not restrict the ownership or possession of guns in any way, yet the National Rifle Association (NRA) has attacked Pennsylvania cities in costly and time-consuming lawsuits to have these local laws overturned. To date, all of these challenges have been thrown out, including by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

As you know, the legislature is now considering H.B.1523, legislation that would give the NRA standing to sue our cities.

Under this new bill, if a city repeals its law in 30 days, they still have to pay the NRA's trial lawyer fees. If they repeal after 30 days, they pay double the lawyer's fees. And if they wait to see how the court rules, they might pay triple. Clearly, this bill is designed to bully mayors and police departments across Pennsylvania to choose between abandoning their public safety laws or spending precious taxpayer dollars to defend common sense local ordinances. If a gun is stolen in one of our communities, our concern as mayors is that one of our police officers or residents may face that gun in the hands of a criminal on the street. Asking a gun owner to notify their local police department when their gun is lost or stolen is hardly too much to ask.

There are lives at stake in this debate. At a time when so many Pennsylvania cities are suffering from budget cuts, our police deserve better. This is too important an issue for the state legislature to give in to extremists in the gun lobby and undercut the progress that cities across Pennsylvania have made to protect public safety.

We urge you to oppose H.B.1523.

Sincerely,

Mayor James Hopely, Aldan, Pennsylvania
Mayor Ed Pawlowski, Allentown, Pennsylvania
Mayor Charles T. Wahl, Ambler, Pennsylvania
Mayor Gretchen Dosch, Applewold, Pennsylvania
Mayor Bernard Killian, Aspinwall, Pennsylvania
Mayor Alexander Bennett, Jr, Baldwin, Pennsylvania
Mayor Phillip Ferrizzi, Bally, Pennsylvania
Mayor Cloyd W. Wagner, Beavertown, Pennsylvania
Mayor Stanley Goldman, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania
Mayor Robin J. Gochenauer, Bendersville, Pennsylvania
Mayor Gail Stoudt, Bernville, Pennsylvania
Mayor John B. Callahan, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Mayor Robert M. Myers, Birdsboro, Pennsylvania
Mayor Thomas M. Smith, Blawnox, Pennsylvania
Mayor Vincent H. Liebel, Boswell, Pennsylvania
Mayor Marianne Deery, Boyertown, Pennsylvania
Mayor Kenneth Lockhart, Brentwood, Pennsylvania
Mayor David Wonderling, Brookville, Pennsylvania
Mayor Lester J. Ward, Brownsville, Pennsylvania
Mayor Anna Marie Quader, Burgettstown, Pennsylvania
Mayor Loyce Harpster, Burnham, Pennsylvania
Mayor Margaret Stock, Butler, Pennsylvania
Mayor David H. Rhome, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania
Mayor Justin M. Taylor, Carbondale, Pennsylvania
Mayor Donald Baumgarten, Castle Shannon, Pennsylvania
Mayor Barbara A. Schlegel, Catasauqua, Pennsylvania
Mayor Marilyn J. Becker, Chalfont, Pennsylvania
Mayor Ronald W. Lockwood, Cherry Valley, Pennsylvania
Mayor Paul H. McKenna, Churchill, Pennsylvania
Mayor Richard L. Lattanzi, Clairton, Pennsylvania
Mayor Harry Kelly, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania
Mayor John Hartman, Cleona, Pennsylvania
Mayor Frank C. Kelly, Collingdale, Pennsylvania
Mayor Allen Gyorko, Confluence, Pennsylvania
Mayor Mark J. Thomas, Cornwall, Pennsylvania
Mayor Timothy J. Carroll, Dallas, Pennsylvania
Mayor Helen Thomas, Darby, Pennsylvania

Mayor Thomas R. Lloyd, Dormont, Pennsylvania
Mayor Libby White, Doylestown, Pennsylvania
Mayor Philip Krivacek, Duquesne, Pennsylvania
Mayor Betty M. Hays, Eagles Mere, Pennsylvania
Mayor Salvatore J. Panto, Jr., Easton, Pennsylvania
Mayor Louis J. Payne, East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Mayor Mark A. Pacilla, East Washington, Pennsylvania
Mayor Wayne T. Murphy, Edgeworth, Pennsylvania
Mayor Joseph J. Cisco, Ellport, Pennsylvania
Mayor Winfield Iobst, Emmaus, Pennsylvania
Mayor Dorothy H. Quinn, Emsworth, Pennsylvania
Mayor Joseph Sinnott, Erie, Pennsylvania
Mayor Gary Foster, Evans City, Pennsylvania
Mayor D. Gary Evans, Factoryville, Pennsylvania
Mayor Charles Moore, Falls Creek, Pennsylvania
Mayor Olive McKeithan, Farrell, Pennsylvania
Mayor Gary McBrien, Felton, Pennsylvania
Mayor Robert P. Frey, Folcroft, Pennsylvania
Mayor Harry W. McLaughlin Jr., Fox Chapel, Pennsylvania
Mayor Kim Phillips, Frackville, Pennsylvania
Mayor Fred C. Moyer, Jr., Freeburg, Pennsylvania
Mayor Gerald C. Yob, Freemansburg, Pennsylvania
Mayor Arnie Bowser, Greensboro, Pennsylvania
Mayor Roy Del Rosario, Hamburg, Pennsylvania
Mayor Linda Thompson, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Mayor Norm Hawkes, Hatboro, Pennsylvania
Mayor John Hoerner, Highspire, Pennsylvania
Mayor Joseph R. Dodson, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania
Mayor Betty Esper, Homestead, Pennsylvania
Mayor Dee Dee Brown, Huntingdon Borough, Pennsylvania
Mayor Nicholas Yanosich, Industry, Pennsylvania
Mayor Charles Ritter, Ivyland, Pennsylvania
Mayor James C. Sanders, Jefferson, Pennsylvania
Mayor Donald Bosh, Knoxville, Pennsylvania
Mayor Sandra Green, Kutztown, Pennsylvania
Mayor Joseph Legnasky, Lake City, Pennsylvania
Mayor Rick Gray, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Mayor Christopher Blaydon, Langhorne, Pennsylvania
Mayor Jayne C. Young, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania
Mayor Robert P. Carpenter, Laporte, Pennsylvania
Mayor Fred Feltenberger, Laureldale, Pennsylvania
Mayor Pete Poninsky, Leetsdale, Pennsylvania
Mayor Donald L. Rehrig, Lehighton, Pennsylvania
Mayor Nick Vay, Lincoln, Pennsylvania
Mayor John L. Mark, Liverpool, Pennsylvania
Mayor William D. Hart, Lykens, Pennsylvania

Mayor Randy Schlegel, Lyons, Pennsylvania
Mayor Thomas A. Bell, Mahaffey, Pennsylvania
Mayor Gerard J. McGlone, Jr., Malvern, Pennsylvania
Mayor Eric B. Phillips, Manheim, Pennsylvania
Mayor David Sturgess, Manor, Pennsylvania
Mayor James D. Schiliro, Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania
Mayor Russell LaRew, Marianna, Pennsylvania
Mayor Weslee A. Clapper-Krepps, McKean, Pennsylvania
Mayor John Christopher Soff, Meadville, Pennsylvania
Mayor Ethel I. Kellerman, Milesburg, Pennsylvania
Mayor John P. Antoline, Monaca, Pennsylvania
Mayor John Dorin, Montoursville, Pennsylvania
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Mayor Raymond Bodnar, Munhall, Pennsylvania
Mayor Thomas Lush, Myerstown, Pennsylvania
Mayor Stephen Szymusiak, Nanty-Glo, Pennsylvania
Mayor Joseph Taylor, New Milford, Pennsylvania
Mayor Frances Tkach, New Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Mayor Mary M. Hetrick, Newport, Pennsylvania
Mayor Grace Angotti, New Salem, Pennsylvania
Mayor Thomas Reenock, Northampton, Pennsylvania
Mayor Michele Petrini Avvisato, Old Forge, Pennsylvania
Mayor Austin Scandiber, Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania
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Mayor William McCall, Parker, Pennsylvania
Mayor Ardele R. Gordon, Parkside, Pennsylvania
Mayor Robert Winkler, Penndel, Pennsylvania
Mayor Michael Nutter, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Mayor John D.W. Reiley, Pottsville, Pennsylvania
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Mayor Desiree D. DeNicola, Roseto, Pennsylvania
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Mayor Thomas C. Hufnagle, Sellersville, Pennsylvania
Mayor Anthony Hajjar, Seward, Pennsylvania
Mayor Joseph McGranghan, Shamokin Dam, Pennsylvania
Mayor Robert J. Lucas, Sharon, Pennsylvania
Mayor Robert O'Neil, Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania
Mayor Bruce Hockersmith, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania
Mayor Boyd Paul, Snow Shoe, Pennsylvania
Mayor William Meyer, Somerset, Pennsylvania
Mayor John Reynolds, Souderton, Pennsylvania
Mayor James C. Kennedy, South Coatesville, Pennsylvania
Mayor Clyde R. Wadsworth, South Fork, Pennsylvania
Mayor Elizabeth A. Goreham, State College, Pennsylvania

Mayor Thomas F. Acri, Steelton, Pennsylvania
Mayor Sherman Metzgar, Stockertown, Pennsylvania
Mayor William A. Boyd, Stoystown, Pennsylvania
Mayor Charles Baughman, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania
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Mayor Richard H. Lowe, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania
Mayor Luke Duignam, Tatamy, Pennsylvania
Mayor Jay R. Stover, Telford, Pennsylvania
Mayor Charles Harper, Three Springs, Pennsylvania
Mayor Kenneth Danser, Timblin, Pennsylvania
Mayor William Allar, Tremont, Pennsylvania
Mayor J. David Cutchineal, Tullytown, Pennsylvania
Mayor Adam R. Forgie, Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania
Mayor Thomas Micozzie, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania
Mayor Jeffrey Steffler, Wampum, Pennsylvania
Mayor Ester Cotner, Washingtonville, Pennsylvania
Mayor Carolyn T. Comitta, West Chester, Pennsylvania
Mayor Donna M. Frankenfield, West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania
Mayor Ralph Harrington, West Elizabeth, Pennsylvania
Mayor Dick Vargeson, Westfield, Pennsylvania
Mayor Frank Schmidt, West Hazleton, Pennsylvania
Mayor John W. Dindak, West Homestead, Pennsylvania
Mayor Mary E. Popovich, West Newton, Pennsylvania
Mayor John Henry, West View, Pennsylvania
Mayor James F. Nowalk, Whitehall Borough, Pennsylvania
Mayor Edward D. Hozza, Jr., Whitehall Township, Pennsylvania
Mayor Thomas M. Leighton, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
Mayor John A. Thompson, Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania
Mayor David Perruso, Wilson, Pennsylvania
Mayor Larry Markel, Windsor, Pennsylvania
Mayor Dolores Jones-Butler, Yeadon, Pennsylvania
Mayor John Sanford, Yoe, Pennsylvania
Mayor C. Kim Bracey, York, Pennsylvania
Mayor Alford Shull, York Springs, Pennsylvania
Mayor Joan Derco, Youngwood, Pennsylvania