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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Representative Kevin Murphy, 113th Legislative District
DATE: January 6, 2011
SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of legislation (re-introduction): Amending the Second Class A City Code (Former HB 1942 of 2009-10 Session)

In the very near future I plan to re-introduce legislation that amends the Second Class A City code to ease the presently burdensome real estate tax billing and collection procedure on taxpayers for taxes owed to the city of Scranton, the county of Lackawanna and Scranton School District.

As it currently stands, residents of the city of Scranton are forced to pay, in one lump sum, heavy fees and fines on delinquent real estate taxes. In addition, the real estate taxes owed to the city of Scranton, the county of Lackawanna and the Scranton School District are issued by the city in one bill, oftentimes causing confusion to taxpayers.

This legislation would eliminate any confusion by providing two separate bills; one bill for real estate taxes owed to the city and one bill for real estate taxes owed to the county and school district. Additionally, this bill will oblige cities of the second class A to offer an installment payment option for the taxes and fees to residents if their taxes would become delinquent. This would prevent residents who are unable to fully pay delinquent taxes and fees from losing their homes to tax sales.

In this period of continuing economic uncertainty, it is important that we do our part in easing the financial burden of the constituents we serve. This bill passed the House unanimously last session by 194-0.

If you are interested in again co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Steph in my office at shardman@pahouse.net. Thank you.