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TO: All Senators

DATE: December 21, 2010

FROM: Senator Michael J. Stack 

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation

In the near future, I plan to **reintroduce Senate Bill 1251 of the 2009-10 Session**, which would create an Amnesty Program for Motor Vehicle Code Violations. The purpose of this program is to help state government and municipalities recover uncollected revenues from vehicle code violations. These uncollected revenues will help governments across the Commonwealth meet their financial commitments during these turbulent economic times.

The Amnesty Program will be mandatory for cities of the first class. The purpose of the legislation is to help cities of the first class and PennDOT collect traffic enforcement fines. The program is a trade-off: in order to collect revenue, the government will give people a second chance to receive and maintain their driving privilege. A 2005 Auditor General's Report found that Philadelphia had over \$500,000,000 in uncollected motor vehicle fines. Both the City of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania would benefit from the collection of these fines.

Under the program, individuals with suspended drivers' licenses will be eligible to receive a one-time amnesty for the violations and will be allowed to clear their driving records of points and/or license suspensions. In order to receive amnesty, an individual shall pay all of their fines and fees to restore driving privileges.

The program will be administered by Traffic Courts in Cities of the First Class. Under the program, courts may amend or discharge motor vehicle violations if someone pays all of their fines. The judge shall have the discretion to order PennDOT to clear the driving record and restore driving privileges.

Previous co-sponsors included Senator Farnese.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor the legislation, please contact my office at 7-9608.