

Proposed Legislation No Hard Copy to Follow

COSPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Dan Truitt
156th Legislative District

SUBJECT: Cosponsorship of HB 1920 - "Telecommute PA"

DATE: October 3, 2011

In the very near future, I will introduce HB1920 to establish the "Telecommute PA" program of tax incentives for employers who establish a structured telecommuting program for their employees.

The main purpose of this legislation is to promote telecommuting as a means to reduce some of the burdens on our infrastructure. However, there are many benefits to telecommuting for employers, employees, families, society, and the environment. Employers benefit from reduced facilities' expenses, and new employers have an easier time getting their businesses off the ground and creating new jobs. Employees who telecommute have greater flexibility in scheduling, spend less time commuting, and spend more time with their families. Society benefits from less traffic, less wear-and-tear on roads and bridges, and reduced spread of illnesses like colds and flu. The environment benefits from less air pollution and carbon emissions. The attached document "Top Ten Reasons to Work at Home" describes some of the other benefits associated with telecommuting.

This legislation will establish the "Telecommute PA" program, offering non-refundable, non-retroactive tax credits of up to \$1500.00 per year per employee for the first year that an employee is in the program to cover hardware costs plus an additional \$1500.00 per year per employee, ongoing, to cover the costs of internet service and hardware maintenance. The credits are prorated depending upon the number of days that the employee is allowed to work at home (4 days =

100%) and individual employers are capped at \$50,000.00 per year. Employees must be PA residents.

A similar program has been in effect in VA for more than 10 years and other states, including Maryland and Minnesota, are now working on similar legislation.

I hope that you will join me in sponsoring this bill. If you are so inclined, please contact my Harrisburg secretary, Gigi Baker, at 260-6164 or send an e-mail to gbaker@pahousegop.com.

Thank you for your support.