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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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SOUTHWESTERN VETERANS CENTER

MEMO

TO: All House Members

FROM: Joseph Preston, Jr., Minority Chairman
House Consumer Affairs Committee

RE: Request for Co-Sponsors: Elimination of Property Taxes for
Counties of the Second Class

DATE: April 3, 2012

In the near future, I plan to introduce a House companion bill to a bill being introduced by Senator Wayne Fontana of Allegheny County. This legislation would eliminate property taxes in Second Class Counties by authorizing the County Council to eliminate property tax assessments within the county.

Under this legislation, the county would have the discretion to pass an ordinance eliminating the assessment system. Once this is accomplished, neither the county nor any school district or municipality would be able to levy a real estate tax. If the County Council refuses to act, citizens could propose such an ordinance through public referendum.

The governing bodies, each school district, or municipality, would then be empowered to impose other taxes to replace the revenue previously derived from property tax revenues. These other taxes could include an earned income tax, net profits tax, personal income tax, sales and use tax, real property fee (based on per square foot of property) or any other tax authorized under the Local Tax Enabling Act.

I believe this legislation is needed to address the urgent situation facing Allegheny County regarding the recent court ordered re-assessment that resulted in a very costly mandate for residents of the county.

If you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please email Wendy Shearer (wshearer@pahouse.net) or call my Harrisburg Office (783-1017). Thank you.