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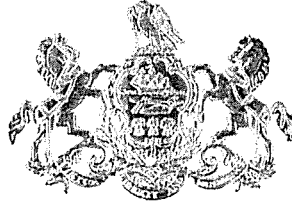
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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

May 29, 2012

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**MAY 29 2012**

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator John R. Gordner *JRG*

SUBJECT: State Tax Equalization Board Legislation

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation to move the State Tax Equalization Board (STEB) under the purview of the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

As many of you know, there have been instances in the past where STEB incorrectly determined market values within municipalities, which resulted in erroneous data being used by numerous school districts that require multi-county tax equalization. To address this situation, I introduced Senate Bill 704 earlier this session. SB 704 would enact several reforms to the way STEB operates and was passed unanimously by the Senate (50-0) on June 13, 2011. It is now awaiting consideration by the House Finance Committee.

Since that time, Governor Tom Corbett proposed moving STEB under the umbrella of DCED in his 2012-2013 budget proposal. I have reviewed this initiative and agree with its premise. Therefore, I will be introducing a new bill to enact it into law. Under the plan, STEB will remain a 3-person board. However, shifting its oversight to DCED will provide greater support services for STEB staff and board members and will cultivate the development of a partnership with the Center for Local Government Services, another entity under DCED.

Please contact my office by noon on June 1, 2012 if you wish to cosponsor this legislation.