

## Veto No. 18

SB 583

November 26, 1978

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

I return herewith, without my signature Senate Bill No. 583, Printer's No. 2188, entitled, "An act providing for the regulation for energy conservation purposes of the construction of buildings, the establishment of a building energy conservation committee and a board on variances, appeals and for penalties."

This bill, if signed into law, would establish a pervasive scheme of governmental regulation of building construction and renovation for the purpose of energy conservation. While the purpose of conserving scarce energy resources is of the highest importance and priority, and while I have advocated and supported efforts to enact laws promoting energy conservation, Senate Bill No. 583 seeks to achieve that goal by mechanisms which cannot be administered without budget breaking appropriations.

This bill would excessively burden the Commonwealth's construction industry, which would, in turn, pose a serious threat to the health and viability of the Commonwealth's economy.

Senate Bill No. 583 seeks to establish what would be, in effect, a comprehensive Statewide statutory building code extensively supplementing building regulations already in effect for purposes other than energy conservation. To properly and effectively administer and enforce such a code would necessitate the employment of innumerable additional plans examiners, building inspectors, technical experts, attorneys, and other administrative personnel, as well as necessitate the expenditure of tremendous sums of money to support their efforts.

Perhaps the greatest cost, however, would be that incurred by property owners, architects, engineers, builders, contractors, and others involved in building construction and renovation who would be forced to endure the bureaucratic red tape certain to increase multifold as a consequence of this proposed law.

The cost of Senate Bill No. 583, in terms of expanded bureaucracy, a construction industry potentially crippled, and a damaged economy are simply unjustifiable. Certainly, there are means less bureaucratic, less intrusive, and less costly to all by which to further the paramount objective of energy conservation.

I hope and trust that the General Assembly, with the support of all citizens of Pennsylvania, will continue its search for effective and cost-efficient mechanisms to combat waste and promote the conservation of energy resources, and procure Federal funding if appropriate.

I understand that there exist certain Federal programs, which, if implemented on the State level, would provide funding for energy conservation efforts. This bill, however, far exceeds the standards of the Federal programs.

For these reasons, I do not approve this bill.

MILTON J. SHAPP