

THE CORMAN REPORT

FROM STATE SENATOR JAKE CORMAN

34TH DISTRICT • FALL 2006



CORMAN, MCIDC LOCAL OFFICIALS WELCOME FIRST QUALITY ENTERPRISES TO COUNTY

I recently secured \$1.5 million in state grant funding to assist the Mifflin County Industrial Development Corporation (MCIDC) in attracting a large manufacturing employer to Mifflin County.

The grant will allow the MCIDC to develop 316 acres in the Mifflin County Industrial Park-East for First Quality Enterprises.

This project means more jobs for Mifflin and Juniata County residents. We

have been working for more than four years to make this plan a reality, and now we are taking a giant step forward.

With the financing in place for the development of the site, millions of dollars in private capital will be leveraged by First Quality.

First Quality has become a diversified family of companies serving institutional and retail markets throughout the world. The company employs over 770 people, with facilities in Lock Haven and Hazelton.



Senator Corman presents a \$1.5 million state grant to the Mifflin County Industrial Development Corporation.

EMINENT DOMAIN LAW PROTECTS PROPERTY OWNERS FROM LAND SEIZURES

Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that local officials in New London, Connecticut, could condemn private property for redevelopment using eminent domain laws.

The decision raised major concerns that government could use its powers to take over private property to boost economic development – meaning that private landowners had little or no ability to protect their land.

I helped to lead the passage of new laws that will prohibit the use of eminent domain to benefit private businesses. The Private Property Protection Act would still allow government to condemn abandoned, dangerous or severely tax-delinquent properties.

The bill would also prohibit any local government from taking land from an adjacent township without an agreement from both local governments.

The idea that a citizen's home or property can be taken by the government and turned over to another citizen for non-governmental use is outrageous. This new law will protect Pennsylvania homeowners, small businesses, farms and churches from land seizures for private development.

“COMBAT METH INITIATIVE” GETS SENATE BACKING

Methamphetamine is a deadly new drug – and its use is growing in Pennsylvania, particularly in rural areas. Its popularity is on the rise because most of the ingredients used to make it can be purchased in local stores. The drug is “cooked” in homemade labs and is highly addictive and deadly.

I recently voted for a comprehensive package of bills sponsored by Senate Republicans that is aimed at stopping the growing use and production of methamphetamine.

The “Pennsylvania Combat Meth Initiative,” which passed the Senate and now moves to the House, will make it more difficult to obtain the ingredients necessary to make methamphetamine, add new protections for children, and clean up the environmental damage caused by meth labs.

I believe we need to provide new resources and penalties to fight this deadly drug.



Senator Corman talks with a constituent at his annual Senior Expo.

“JESSICA’S LAW” CRACKS DOWN ON CHILD SEXUAL PREDATORS

The State Senate recently approved legislation I cosponsored to impose a mandatory minimum sentence of 25 years for convicted child molesters and require them to wear a monitoring device for life.

“Jessica’s Law” is named for Jessica Lunsford, a 9-year-old Florida girl who was kidnapped and murdered by a convicted sex offender.

I am especially proud that Pennsylvania is leading a national effort to crack down on child sexual predators, more comprehensively monitor offenders, and ensure that all offenders register

under the current Megan’s Law.

Senate Bill 944 would impose a minimum of 25 years in prison for anyone over 18 years who is convicted

harboring or aiding a sex offender who has failed to register under Megan’s Law. It also enhances the current Megan’s Law website and offender reporting

requirements by mandating more specific residence information and reducing the time permitted for an offender to register after his or her release or relocation.

Our hope is that Jessica Lunsford did not die in vain and that other states will join in a national effort to more closely monitor sex offenders and strengthen our laws to protect our children.

MEGAN’S LAW WEBSITE IMPROVED

The Pennsylvania State Police has established a website to provide timely information to the public on sexually violent predators residing in the Commonwealth. The Pennsylvania Megan’s Law website is: www.pameganslaw.state.pa.us.

of sexually assaulting a child, mandatory GPS monitoring for life, and a life sentence for anyone convicted of a second offense.

The bill provides additional penalties for anyone convicted of knowingly

CORMAN PUSHING FOR GAMING REFORMS

For several months, I have been working with my colleagues to develop a gambling reform agenda. We recently unveiled our comprehensive plan to make major structural reforms to the two-year-old gambling law. The 21-bill package is designed to close loopholes in the law; enhance the accountability of the Gaming Control Board; improve the administration of the law; and strengthen oversight by the Attorney General and the General Assembly over the conduct of gaming in Pennsylvania.

Efforts to reform the gambling law extend back over one year when Governor Rendell vetoed legislation that would have made a number of reforms to the law, including revisions pertaining to slot machine suppliers and granting power to the Attorney General to prosecute gambling-related crime.

These reforms are needed to restore public trust and confidence in the process

being used to award the casino licenses and to guard against fraud, influence peddling and criminal activity. Although I did not support the gambling expansion, now that it is in effect, the priority is to

strengthen the law and ensure the integrity and accountability of the process.

These are important, commonsense and necessary reforms that even gaming proponents can support.



Senator Corman announces his gaming reform package at a Capitol news conference.

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