



State Senator CAMERA Bartolotta

NEWS from *The General Assembly*

Dear Friend:

It was an incredible honor recently to take the oath of office to begin representing you in the Pennsylvania Senate. I deeply appreciate the support and encouragement I have received from all corners of our district, and I am anxious to get to work on your behalf in Harrisburg.

In traveling throughout the region over the past year, I have had a chance to speak with numerous residents who are passionate about their communities and want to see our region thrive and grow. One of my highest priorities will be staying connected with the fabric of our neighborhoods and learning from the perspectives of community residents.

There is little doubt that the challenges we face are significant. We must work to promote a stronger job climate, support and improve our public education system and ensure we pass along a clean and vibrant environment to our children and grandchildren.

As we address these issues, we must also demand more of our state government. Accordingly, I have declined to receive a state pension or per diem payments, and I plan to provide the vast majority of legislative updates via email to save on printing and mailing costs. Information on how to sign up for regular e-news updates is included on the reverse side of this mailer.

I look forward to working with all interested parties to make progress toward improving the overall quality of life in our area in 2015 and beyond. Please do not hesitate to contact me to express your views or to receive assistance with any issue or problem pertaining to state government.

Sincerely,

Camera Bartolotta
Senator Camera Bartolotta

Giving Taxpayers a Voice on Spending Controls

As I've met with citizens from our community over the past year and discussed a wide range of concerns on local and state issues, one view was expressed by an overwhelming number of people: government needs to do a better job of managing our tax dollars. I firmly believe that our state government should adhere to the same principle that governs businesses and family finances – consistently spending beyond our means is the surest recipe for failure.

To protect taxpayers against unchecked government costs, I recently introduced legislation that would amend the state Constitution to place commonsense spending limits on the state budget. The spending limits would be set based on population

changes and the rate of inflation. Because the spending controls would be mandated in the state Constitution, they couldn't be repealed by a simple majority vote of the General Assembly in the future.

The legislation is patterned after the Taxpayer Protection Act, which has

been introduced in the two most recent legislative sessions by Senator Mike Folmer (R-48).

Amending the state Constitution requires the bill to pass in two consecutive legislative sessions before going to the voters for final approval via referendum. I am hopeful we can get this bill through the legislative process and give voters the final say on whether our Commonwealth should join 30 other states in setting commonsense spending controls.



I recently joined my colleagues Representative Jason Ortity (R-46) and Senator Pat Stefano (R-32) to learn more about MarkWest Energy Partners' natural gas facilities in our area, including the Brigich Compression Station and the Houston Processing Plant and Rail Yard.

Committee Assignments Address Region's Priorities

I am pleased to announce that I was recently appointed to serve on six committees that will study many of the issues that are most important to our communities.

In speaking to residents throughout our region, no issue generated as much interest as the local economy. Several of my committee assignments will allow me to play a role in crafting proposals that can help create quality jobs and make our area an even better place to live, work and raise a family.

One of the most important appointments is to serve as Vice Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, which studies proposals that deal with conservation and resource management. Given the immense significance of the Marcellus Shale



industry to the state's future, I am thankful that our region will have a seat at the table to ensure this resource is developed safely and responsibly without compromising the environment.

In addition, I was appointed to serve as a member of the Transportation Committee, the Urban Affairs and Housing Committee and the Community, Economic and Recreational

Development Committee. All three of these committees play a role in supporting the economy and attracting quality employers. Finding ways to leverage our resources to create jobs will be a point of emphasis as I serve on these panels.

I was also honored to be appointed to the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee. Pennsylvania is home to more than a million veterans and thousands of men and women in uniform. Ensuring their needs are met is a priority for every community.

And finally, I was appointed to serve on the Majority Policy Committee, which works to study, shape and improve a wide range of legislative proposals designed to improve the quality of life in Pennsylvania communities.

Keeping Connected to the Community

Good governance requires lawmakers to keep the lines of communications open to effectively respond to local concerns. One of my first jobs as state Senator was creating a multitude of ways to stay connected to the community.

That's why I opened district offices in Canonsburg, Waynesburg and Monongahela, and in the near future I hope to open a satellite office in Hopewell Township, Beaver County. These offices are designed to serve as a point of first contact for constituents who have problems relating to state agencies or questions regarding state programs. I invite you to drop by or call if I can be of assistance.

In addition, I have established a website for residents of the 46th Senatorial District that offers a wealth of information about government programs and resources. Constituents can also contact me through the website to offer their views or ask questions. I encourage you to visit www.senatorbartolotta.com for more information.

I will also host telephone town hall events, which will allow residents of local communities the opportunity to call, ask questions and discuss their concerns. Details for these calls will be posted to my website.

Likewise, I provide updates on local and state issues on my social media accounts, including on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/senatorbartolotta and Twitter at www.twitter.com/senbartolotta. Additionally, in an effort to reduce printing and mailing costs, I plan to send regular electronic newsletters featuring legislative updates and items of local interest. I encourage you to visit my website to sign up for e-news updates.



It was a pleasure to participate in the first meeting of the Senate Coal Caucus, a bipartisan panel that explores ways to promote coal and coal-driven technologies in Pennsylvania. Also pictured (L to R): Senators Randy Vulakovich (R-38), Scott E. Hutchinson (R-21), Pat Stefano (R-32) and John R. Gordner (R-27).



**State Senator
Camera Bartolotta**

46th District

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