

SCOTT W. BOYD, MEMBER  
43<sup>RD</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HARRISBURG OFFICE  
HOUSE BOX 202020  
MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2020  
PHONE: (717) 783-6422  
FAX: (717) 787-7731  
EMAIL: SBOYD@PAHOUSEGOP.COM

DISTRICT OFFICE  
1861 CHARTER LANE, SUITE 102  
LANCASTER, PA 17601  
PHONE: (717) 464-5285  
FAX: (717) 295-7817

Original: 2283



*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
LABOR RELATIONS  
STATE GOVERNMENT  
TOURISM & RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
SECRETARY

NDV

November 5, 2003

Stephen M. Schmerin, Secretary  
PA Department of Labor & Industry  
1700 Labor & Industry Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Secretary Schmerin:

As a member of the House Labor Relations Committee, I have recently reviewed the final regulations for the new statewide building code. While there are a number of issues I am concerned about there are two VERY SIGNIFICANT issues I would like to bring to your attention as these final regulations move to final approval.

First, of all I am very concerned with Section 403.1 (e) regarding the exclusion from compliance of electrical regulations for members of a religious sect. The current exclusion applies only to "residential" construction only. This exclusion must be extended to commercial enterprises as well. Many members of the Amish community are building small Ag related shops on their farms to supplement their income, and provide additional employment opportunities for the growing Amish community. These Ag Support enterprises are crucial to maintaining a vibrant and prospering Amish community, and ultimately to preserving many acres of the farmland in Lancaster County. Without the additional income from these Ag related enterprises many farms would simply not be economically viable.

Requiring the "shops" to meet electrical code would violate one of the core tenants of faith in the culture, and eliminate the possibility for the community to continue their tradition of utilizing their farms to most efficient and productive use. Please add non-residential properties to the electrical exclusion.

The second area relates to the Departments sole responsibility for permitting and inspections on state-owned property. Specifically I am concerned for the state-owned university system. These buildings are serviced by the local community with no controlling authority in planning, permitting or inspecting these buildings. This process places an inequitable amount of responsibility on the host municipality with little input into the final design and construction of the property.

Thank you taking the time to review these areas of concern within the new building code. I trust you can consider regulation revisions prior to final approval. If not, please advise as I will need to begin drafting legislation to accomplish these changes.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott W. Boyd".

Scott W. Boyd  
Lancaster County

SWB:dja

cc: Nora Ochey, President, Millersville Borough Council  
Richard Moriati, Mayor, Millersville Borough  
Christ K. Blank  
Hon. Robert Allen, Chairman, House Labor Relations Committee  
Bruce Hanson, Executive Director, House Labor Relations Committee