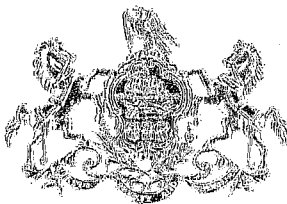


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34TH DISTRICT
SENATOR JAKE CORMAN

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HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3034
PHONE: 717-787-1377
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Senate of Pennsylvania

March 2, 2006

Gerald L. Zahorchak, D.Ed.
Secretary of Education
Department of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Dear Dr. Zahorchak:

I am writing to provide comment with regard to the Chapter 339: General Vocational Education Standards.

I have several school districts with Agricultural Education programs that are very concerned about the proposed changes to Chapter 339. These changes stand to severely cripple, if not end a long tradition of agricultural education programming in schools.

Even with increased pressure to comply with No Child Left Behind and other educational mandates, school districts have decided to continue their commitment to their community and their students by maintaining agricultural education courses. These programs are essential to our young farmers and the continued success and growth of our farming communities.

I ask that you seriously consider the concerns brought to you by the individual school districts and others in the agricultural and education community. They know firsthand how these changes will directly impact the success of their program.

It is my understanding that the Department of Education has maintained that the proposed Ch. 339 changes will have little effect on comprehensive high schools. If this is indeed the case, I ask that you ensure schools receive any support necessary to provide a seamless transition.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. I trust that you can effectively alleviate the concerns of these schools so that they may continue to provide high quality agricultural education programs.

Sincerely,

Senator Jake Corman

JDC/jh

CC: Senator James Rhoades, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee
CC: Mr. Robert G. Bartlett, Director of the Bureau of Career and Technical Education

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Done as
waugh letter