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## INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION

333 MARKET STREET, 14TH FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

December 18, 2006

Honorable Robert J. Mellow  
Democratic Leader  
Senate of Pennsylvania  
535 Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Regulation #6-303 (IRRC #2583)  
State Board of Education  
Certification of Professional Personnel

Dear Democratic Leader Mellow:

The State Board of Education forwarded your letter dated, December 12, 2006, and the letter from Superintendent Salvatore Luzio of the Riverside School District. Be assured, the Commission will review and consider the points raised by Mr. Luzio in his comments. Additionally, your letter will be included in the Commission's public record file.

The Commission's comments are due by January 25, 2007. At that time, they will be available on our web page at [www.irrc.state.pa.us](http://www.irrc.state.pa.us). If you or your staff have questions about the process or this regulation, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Kim Kaufman  
Executive Director

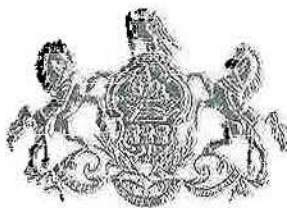
sfn

22ND DISTRICT  
**ROBERT J. MELLOW**  
 SENATE BOX 203022  
 THE STATE CAPITOL  
 HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3022  
 PHONE: (717) 787-6481  
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# The Democratic Leader



Senate of Pennsylvania

## COMMITTEES

RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS  
 MINORITY CHAIRMAN  
 ETHICS, MINORITY CHAIRMAN  
 APPROPRIATIONS  
 1-800-364-1581 (TT)

**RECEIVED**

DEC 13 2006

PA. STATE BOARD  
 OF EDUCATION

December 12, 2006

Mr. James Buckheit  
 Executive Director  
 State Board of Education  
 333 Market Street  
 Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter sent to me regarding the proposed amendment to Chapter 49-2 regulations. The letter was sent by the Riverside School District, which is in my Senatorial District and I wanted to make the Board aware of Mr. Luzio's concerns. Also for your information, I have enclosed a copy of my response to Mr. Luzio.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If I can be of assistance during this process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
 ROBERT J. MELLOW  
 The Democratic Leader

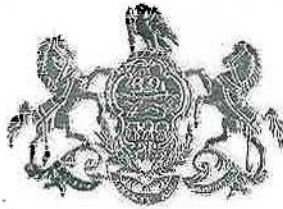
Enclosures

22ND DISTRICT  
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*The Democratic Leader*



Senate of Pennsylvania

**COMMITTEES**

RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS  
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ETHICS, MINORITY CHAIRMAN  
APPROPRIATIONS  
1-800-364-1581 (TT)

December 12, 2006

Mr. Salvatore F. Luzio, Sr.  
Superintendent, Riverside School District  
300 Davis Street  
Taylor, PA 18517

Dear Superintendent Luzio:

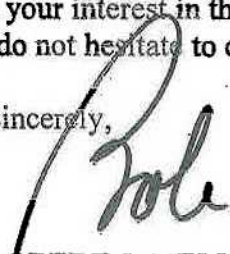
Thank you for your correspondence concerning the Chapter 49-2 regulations, currently in proposed stage.

I have forwarded a copy of your letter to Jim Buckheit, Executive Director of the State Board of Education, for further transmittal to the subcommittee of the Board that is addressing these regulations.

Please be advised that because the current legislative term ended before hearings on these regulations could be held in either the Senate or the House and because concerns continue to be raised from many sectors of the educational community, I am confident that final action on these regulations will not be taken for some time, probably not until next spring. As of today's date, none of the Education Committees have expressed approval of the regulations. It is my understanding that the Board will continue to receive and consider all comments. I would advise you to check the Board's website for further information about the status of these regulations.

Thank you again for your correspondence and your interest in this very important matter. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
ROBERT J. MELLOW  
The Democratic Leader

cc: James Buckheit, Executive Director, State Board of Education ✓

DEC 11 2006

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# Riverside School District

Administrative Offices  
300 Davis Street  
Taylor, PA 18517

Salvatore F. Luzio, Sr.  
Superintendent

Phone (570) 562-2121  
FAX (570) 562-3205

December 5, 2006

Sen. Robert J. Mellow  
524 Main Street  
PO Box B  
Peckville, PA 18452

Dear Sen. Mellow:

My purpose in writing is to express my opposition and that of my administrative staff's opposition to the proposed amendment to the State Board of Education's teacher certification regulations (Chapter 49-2) that are now before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

The regulations, if finally adopted, would make it even more difficult for us to appropriately staff our schools.

Our reasons for taking this position is that these regulations would create a workforce which lacks a "broad" preparation as elementary teachers, the inability to integrate curriculum in upper elementary grades, anticipated shortages in "properly" certified personnel, and lost flexibility in reassigning personnel in teaching assignments.

Finally, this piece of legislation does not reflect the essence of the term "highly qualified."

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Salvatore F. Luzio, Sr.  
Superintendent  
Riverside School District

SFL/rd