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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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JUN 23 2008

PA. STATE BOARD  
OF EDUCATION

June 3, 2008

Mr. Jim Buckheit  
Pennsylvania State Board of Education  
333 Market Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

I am writing today to express my support for the State Board of Education's proposed changes to state high school graduation requirements, which will ensure that all students have the core reading, writing, math, science and social studies skills needed to succeed in today's society.

Our economic future in a changing world depends on student achievement today. However, many high school graduates lack the basic competencies needed to enter college or the workforce.

The State Board provides a realistic solution for ensuring that a high school diploma represents a level of achievement that is standard across the commonwealth, while providing greater flexibility in how students demonstrate that they have the skills needed to succeed after high school. More and more jobs require advanced skills and training—as an employer, I believe strongly that a high school diploma should allow students to move seamlessly onto the postsecondary experience that will guarantee a meaningful career and a family sustaining wage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Austin J. Burke".

Austin J. Burke  
President

The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce