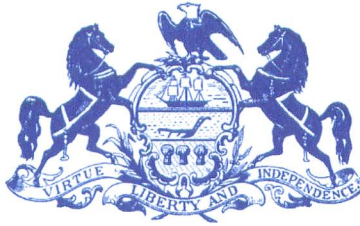


DUANE D. MILNE, Ph.D.  
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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

August 28, 2008

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Michael P. Rudy, CPA & Associates  
Michael Rudy CPA  
3521 E. Lincoln Hwy.  
Thorndale, PA 19372

Dear Michael,

As your state representative for the 167<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, I thought it important to let you know about a grant program you may be interested in for your business as well as an update on the property tax issue. As a business owner, I understand the challenges you face in order to thrive. I am proud to share with you that I have a strong pro-business voting record.

The grant program I referenced provides a 50% matching grant to small businesses to help defray the costs of purchasing new equipment or implementing new processes that reduce energy consumption and prevent pollution. The grants can be worth up to \$7,500. The application for this assistance is obtained through the Department of Environmental Protection's 2008 Small Business Advantage Grant Program and applications are now being accepted.

Eligibility criteria include any of the following: for-profit corporation, LLC, partnership, sole proprietorship or other legal entity with no more than 100 full-time employees. If you are a manufacturer, retailer or service provider, consider looking into this program and see if it could work for your business.

Knowing how difficult it is for small businesses to remain successful, I assure you I understand that tax shifts to an expanded sales and use tax on businesses to provide residential property tax relief would be a tremendous burden, and an unfair one at that, on small business owners.

As the property tax debate heats up in Harrisburg in the future, I will continue to stand with business owners in Pennsylvania because I am against businesses having to bear the brunt of tax increases. I will continue to share your concerns with my colleagues and work toward improving the business climate in your community and reforming of the business tax structure in the state.

As always, please contact my office whenever you have questions or comments. I particularly want to encourage you to let me know about issues – no matter how “minor” they may seem – impacting your profession. Thank you and I look forward to continuing to partner with you to sustain the high quality of life we are so fortunate to share in Chester County.

Cordially,

Duane D. Milne, Ph.D.  
State Representative