



STATE REPRESENTATIVE **JOHN HORNAMAN** 3RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



HARRISBURG OFFICE: 27B East Wing • P.O. Box 202003 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2003 • (717) 772-2297
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Hornaman speaks at CSG conference

Because of my efforts to bring the offshore wind industry to Lake Erie, I was invited by the Council of State Governments to address a two-day seminar sponsored by the Offshore Wind Development Coalition, which was held this August in Halifax, Nova Scotia. I spoke on the promise and politics of wind energy development, including efforts in Pennsylvania to develop offshore turbines to harness Lake Erie winds. This Eastern Regional Conference of the CSG was attended by thousands of state and provincial legislators and governors addressing a multitude of issues.

I also participated at the Freshwater Wind 2010 Summit in Cleveland. Ohio is currently the Great Lakes state that is closest to actually siting wind turbines in off-shore waters.

Offshore wind is an energy source on the brink of an explosive commercial expansion that presents the promise of new high-tech manufacturing opportunities and jobs in the Great Lakes and along the Eastern Seaboard.

Legislation I co-sponsored would allow Pennsylvania state government to negotiate with experienced wind companies



to develop offshore wind farms. The U.S. leads the world in installed, land-based wind capacity, but to date, no water-based projects have been developed.

The federal Department of Energy also has been working on expediting the process regarding impact studies for wind energy and eliminating some of the bureaucracy.

All local concerns are being addressed, including the effects wind farms might have on fish, bird migration and area aesthetics.

Pa. cracks down on distracted driving

Texting while driving ban now law in Pa.

Last month, Gov. Tom Corbett signed into law S.B. 314, which bans texting while driving in Pennsylvania.

The new ban on texting while driving will go into effect in March 2012. After that, texting while driving will be considered a primary offense, and violators will be subject to a \$50 fine, but no points will be added to your driving record.

This is an important first step toward eliminating the dangerous practice of distracted driving on our roadways.

Pennsylvania joins 34 other states and the District of Columbia that have banned texting while driving.

Teen driver legislation now law

Parents will now have the force of law behind them when making decisions about their teens' driving habits. This fall, legislation (H.B. 9) was made law that updates Pennsylvania's Graduated Driver's Licensing (GDL) law for young drivers.

Among its provisions, the new law requires that everyone under the age of 18 in a vehicle must be buckled up, whether in a seat belt or a child safety or booster seat. The law also sets various limits on the number of passengers under the age of 18 that junior drivers are permitted to transport in their vehicles. As a primary offense, law enforcement can pull over a driver if an officer sees that someone under age 18 isn't properly secured.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), fatalities in crashes that involved a 16- or 17-year-old driver in 2010 increased from 40 in 2009 to 57 last year, a 43 percent increase. In addition, more than half of teen driver and passenger deaths are the direct result of the failure to buckle up.

Veterans' Heritage Firearms Act long overdue

This fall, the state House unanimously adopted my resolution, H.R. 377 (199-0), urging the U.S. Congress to pass the Veterans' Heritage Firearms Act of 2011.

The proposed federal legislation, sponsored by Sen. Jon Tester of Montana, would provide a 90-day amnesty period for veterans and their family members to register firearms acquired overseas before Oct. 31, 1968, without fear of prosecution. Although Congress granted a limited amnesty in 1968, few veterans received enough notice to participate in the program.

Under the bill, only firearms that normally would need to be registered at the federal level are subject to the National Firearms Act. Other items, like bolt-action rifles or semi-automatic pistols do not need to be registered. In other words, the proposed amnesty would apply to machine guns and other NFA firearms.

During the chaos of wartime troop movements, many veterans acquired war trophy firearms lawfully under military regulations but did not complete the official paperwork required to document the guns. It's also understood that veterans or their families could have possibly lost such paperwork over time.



Ken Fisher, left, retired U. S. Marine and owner of Great Lakes Automation Services, McKean, along with Rep. Hornaman, helped company employees celebrate the Marine Corps' 236th birthday on Nov. 10. In addition, Fisher gave his employees who were military veterans the day off on Nov. 11. The plant specializes in designing and building automation parts and systems and assembling kits that contain power switches for military vehicles.

Also under my resolution, the attorney general would be required to create and distribute clear printed notices providing information on the amnesty period and instructions for registering firearms during this period.

The passage of the Veterans' Heritage Firearms Act of 2011 also would facilitate the transfer of acquired NFA firearms to museums and allows for the transfer of machine guns to private museums. Currently, unregistered machine guns can only be transferred to government agencies, including government museums.

It would be a travesty to make criminals of members of the "Greatest Generation" who may have missed the 1968 amnesty program.

Fire department grant program bill moves through committee

Proposal increases funding, extends program

A bill to increase fire grant funding is moving through the state House.

House Bill 955, which I co-sponsored, would reauthorize and extend the volunteer Fire/EMS Department Grant Program through June 30, 2017. The bill was voted unanimously through the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee this fall with amendments.

This bill is important for our local fire departments because it mandates \$25 million per year in gaming proceeds to support volunteer fire and emergency departments.

An amendment added during the committee process increased the funding to \$40 million and now includes the 35 municipal or "paid" fire departments in Pennsylvania. These departments would operate as one company, however; they would not receive separate grants for each station.

Under the increased funding, the minimum grant would change from \$9,500 to \$15,600 and the maximum from \$15,000 to \$19,000. The volunteer EMS grant maximum was increased to \$13,000.



Rep. Hornaman brought together the Golden LivingCenter – Walnut Creek with the Kearsarge Fire Department, which protects that facility, so they could provide the firefighters with a corporate Community Support Initiative grant. The Representative (r) appears with Golden Living officials, Walnut Creek Assistant Executive Director Sholin Montgomery, Golden Living - Western Reserve Executive Director Tanya Bish, and Golden LivingCenter – Walnut Creek Executive Director Carolyn Snedecker and members of the Fire Department as they accept the grant. It will fund the purchase of pneumatic Air Lift bags used in rescue services.

District Activities

McKean

The 150th anniversary of the founding of McKean Borough was cause for celebration on Sept. 17. McKean Mayor Weslee Clapper (standing right) views a House citation presented to her by Rep. Hornaman as he congratulates the Borough on its special occasion. The daylong event commenced with a parade and ended with a community picnic and attractions at the Park.



Presque Isle



Rep. Hornaman gives a special House citation to Dr. John C. Lyons, chairman of the Presque Isle Advisory Committee, on the celebration of the Committee's 25th anniversary in September.



Presque Isle Park Superintendent Harry Leslie discusses with Rep. Hornaman the problems of beach erosion and sand replenishment during the Fall Beach Walk with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Ray Bierbower, left, DCNR Environmental Education Specialist at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center speaks with the Representative in the Aquatic Lab concerning the multitude of wildflowers and plant life found on the State Park.

Senior Fair



Vendor Margie Adamus of Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine of Erie discusses equipment with a visitor at Rep. Hornaman's 5th Annual Senior Fair at the Tom Ridge Center on Aug. 29.



Two gentlemen engage the Representative in conversation during the Fair.



Another visitor takes advantage of one of the free medical screenings at the event.



PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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WINTER 2011



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Holiday Greetings

from Representative Hornaman and staff

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PennDOT District 1 recently launched an online consumer survey to seek input from licensed drivers throughout Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango and Warren counties.

The survey asks motorists to rate what is important to them in areas like communications, road smoothness, traffic flow and safety. The survey also asks them to judge PennDOT's performance in each of the various areas.

The survey is located at www.getstrategy.com/NWPennDOT through Dec. 25.

The survey is part of District 1's Performance Management Initiative, an internal examination designed to study how the district does its work and how it can continue to improve.

PennDOT offers the following driving tips:

■ Increase your following distance in severe weather, at dusk and dawn and when in an area with wet leaves. If you are being tailgated, let the other driver pass.

■ Check your vehicle's headlights, taillights and turn signals to ensure they are working properly since darkness will be a part of many morning and/or evening commutes. Make sure you turn on your headlights as the sunlight fades.

■ Have your vehicle's heating and wiper systems checked to ensure they are working properly. Did you know? IT'S THE LAW to have your headlights on when you use windshield wipers during dark, foggy or inclement weather in the daytime.

■ Be sure you have tires with sufficient tread depth to drive safely during the snow season.