

72nd Legislative District

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Spring 2019



Open letter to constituents

I'm calling for civility moving forward. The challenges facing our community are too big for partisan politics. We need to draw on each other's strengths and points of view to do what's best for our region, regardless of party registration. We must resist painting everyone with a broad brush – and instead judge the individual.

Our country is going down a dangerous path with this all-or-nothing approach in government that places party above people when it should be the other way around.

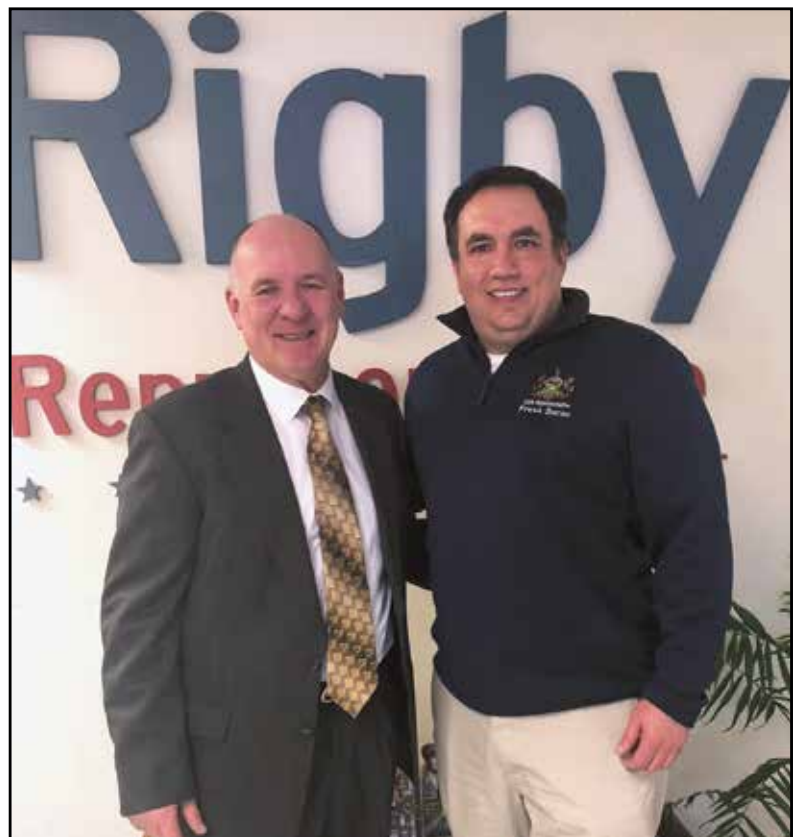
I've prided myself on always putting people before politics:

- When a group of seniors came to me for help after CamTran cut their bus service, I didn't ask if they were Republican or Democrat before **I fought to get their bus service back.**
- When children were telling me about how they were bullied in school, I didn't ask if their parents are Republican or Democrat. Instead, **I wrote anti-bullying legislation that would make a huge impact** in schools.
- When the Ebensburg Center was threatening to close its doors, I didn't care what the residents' families or the employees' party affiliation was – **I just went to work attempting to save the center.**

My promise to you remains the same: I will always work with anyone – Republicans, Democrats, independents and even those who aren't registered to vote – as long as they are willing to get things done for our region.

Frank Burns
State Representative 72nd District

People before politics Committed to working together



The public should not let the political divide in Washington, D.C. influence how they judge our local representatives.

“State Rep. Jim Rigby and I are committed to working together. Plain and simple, we're a couple of hometown guys – one Republican and one Democrat – who are determined to do what's best for the people of our area. We may not agree 100% of the time, but we will always be respectful to one another.”

- Rep. Burns

25,000 JOBS?

Rep. Burns invites Amazon CEO to Cambria County as possible headquarters location

After New York state officials rejected Amazon's plan to locate its second headquarters there, Rep. Burns reached out to Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, inviting him to visit Cambria County as a substitute location for its new headquarters.

"Adding 25,000 jobs might not be a big deal there, but I can assure you that here in Pennsylvania, local and state officials will work with you in a positive and collaborative manner to create a win-win situation for everyone involved," Burns wrote in a letter to Bezos.

Touting Cambria County's strong work ethic and surrounding world-class universities, Burns said such a move could

revitalize and rebuild a region that has struggled since the demise of steel mills, coal mines and factories.

Burns' letter ended by saying, "I stand ready to work with you and elected officials from both parties to make a deal that benefits your company and the hardworking residents of the region, because it's about doing the right thing. Let New York's loss be Pennsylvania's gain; relocate your new headquarters to Cambria County and cement your legacy as the man who rebuilt America."

'What do we have to lose by trying? Nothing ventured, nothing gained.'



In January, Rep. Burns welcomed state Rep. Matt Bradford, who serves as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, to Cambria County, providing him a tour of downtown Ebensburg and an assessment of the needs of the 72nd Legislative District.

Burns Dedicates Bridge in Honor of local WWII Combat Veteran



Burns urges Turnpike Commission to consider Cambria County in Hyperloop feasibility study

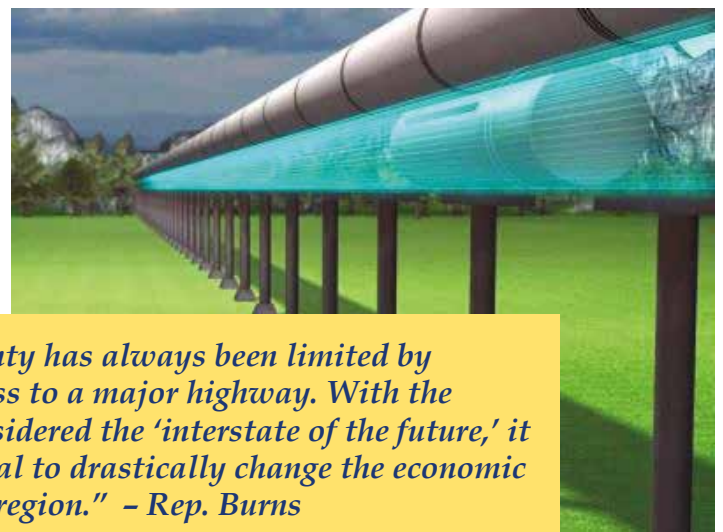
Burns has vowed to make sure our region isn't left behind

Hyperloop is poised to be the "interstate of the future," and Rep. Burns has requested the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission include a Hyperloop terminal in Cambria County as part of its feasibility study on using this new technology for moving goods – and people – at ultra-fast speeds.

Hyperloop is a new form of mass transit that uses pods to transport freight and passengers through specialized tubes at speeds of 600 to 700 mph, providing the potential to move goods and people from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia in as little as half an hour.

In response, the Turnpike Commission thanked Burns for his request, agreeing that Hyperloop would be a substantial economic asset that could benefit the entire state, and assured him the commission would keep him informed of its progress.

"Cambria County has always been limited by its lack of access to a major highway. With the Hyperloop considered the 'interstate of the future,' it has the potential to drastically change the economic outlook of our region." – Rep. Burns





Burns brings over \$11 million to the District

Rep. Burns prides himself on bringing funds back to the community.

- \$119,000 to Cambria County for local school safety grants
- \$7,150 to Dauntless Fire Company in Ebensburg for brush and forest fire training and equipment
- \$350,000 to Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority for recycling and composting
- \$592,417 to Munster Township
- \$340,000 to Washington Township
- \$3.19 million to Middle Taylor Township Sewer Authority for sewer improvements
- \$50,000 to Gallitzin for the development of an athletic field park
- \$35,517 to Greater Johnstown Career and Technical Center to help train students for high-demand jobs
- \$46,968 to Cambria County Child Advocacy Center to aid children of abuse
- \$75,000 to Eternal Remembrance LLC in Cresson for a technology grant
- \$21,260 in Patton to fund Chest Creek stabilization
- \$35,000 for Central Cambria School District to expand computer science classes and teacher training
- \$35,000 for Penn Cambria School District to expand computer science classes and teacher training
- \$35,000 to Ebensburg for improvement of the downtown district
- \$50,000 to Veteran Community Initiatives in Upper Yoder Township to aid its rural veterans' outreach project
- \$427,474 to Vale Wood Farms to expand business and product offerings
- \$211,300 grant to Croyle Township to fix a structurally deficient bridge
- \$3.6 million to Middle Taylor Township for sewer and wastewater projects
- \$1.5 million to East Carroll Township for sewer and wastewater projects
- \$40,000 to the Cambria County Planning Commission to identify new housing opportunities
- \$160,000 to Portage Area School District to perform school safety and security assessments
- \$288,000 to 23 fire and ambulance companies throughout 72nd District to use for repairing, building or renovating facilities

Burns sponsors welfare-to-work initiative

Bill would encourage full-time employment while eliminating disincentive to work

A long-time advocate of welfare reform, Rep. Burns has sponsored legislation that would create a pilot program to move welfare recipients to full-time jobs within a year.

The measure would establish a public-private partnership designed to wean welfare recipients off the system and allow them to collect benefits, while gradually phasing in pay for their full-time work.

"People who can work should be working, not living off the system in perpetuity. This legislation removes the excuse that we always hear - 'If I get a job, I'll actually lose money, because I can make more staying on welfare.'" - Rep. Burns

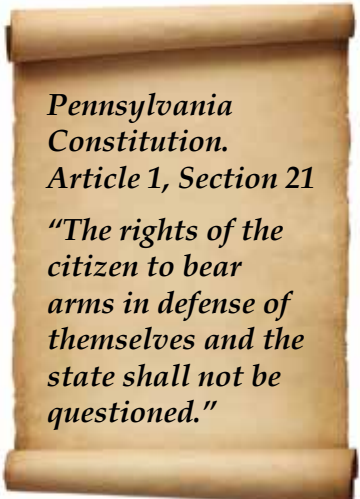
Burns said an added bonus of the legislation is that it relies on the private sector, not government, to supply people with the path necessary to obtain gainful, full-time employment.

"I'll support any and all good ideas when it comes to welfare reform," Burns said. "If this one pans out, it'll be great for employers, welfare recipients and Pennsylvania taxpayers."

Burns vows to fight \$10 per gun registration bill

Rep. Burns believes law-abiding citizens should not be forced to pay a \$10-per-gun, per-year registration fee for each firearm they own.

Calling it an outright attack on legal firearms ownership, he has vowed to fight H.B. 768, which contains other provisions, such as universal fingerprinting and background checks, that would put it squarely at odds with current state law and the Pennsylvania and U.S. Constitutions, as well as the Second Amendment.



*Pennsylvania Constitution.
Article 1, Section 21*

"The rights of the citizen to bear arms in defense of themselves and the state shall not be questioned."

I took an oath to uphold our Constitution, including our right as citizens to bear arms, and I will not back down. Responsible, law-abiding Pennsylvanians should be outraged at this bill. I will fight it and do everything in my power to defeat it.
- Rep. Burns



Rep. Burns exercising his gun rights since 1977.



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Around the 72nd District



Mark and Margaret Blaisdell received a citation from Rep. Burns for the couple's outstanding 30 plus years of community service to the borough of Wilmore and Cambria County.



Rep. Burns' staffer Rachel Christian was on-hand to present a special citation to Agnes Wilshire from Carrolltown in celebration of her 100th birthday.

All Saints Catholic School Varsity Boys Basketball Team and their head coach, P.J. Myers received citations for their success in winning the 2018 Prince Gallitzin Quadrant League Championship.



The Penn Cambria High School Girls' Basketball Team captured first place during the 2018-19 PIAA District VI Class AAA Girls Basketball Championships, the team's first district title in more than two decades.

Penn Cambria Middle School Boys Basketball team and their coach, Anthony Tomaselli are honored for winning the 2018 Laurel Highlands Athletic Conference with a season record of 22-0.



Taylor Grass, Olivia Kissel and Cole Sossong were honored for their outstanding achievements in sports during their time at Portage Area Junior/Senior High School.

Citations were presented to high school seniors Chase Proudfit, Makalyn Clapper and Derek Brown for their outstanding athletic accomplishments during their time at Penn Cambria High School.

