



STATE SENATOR LARRY FARNESE

Reports Fall 2010

■ Southport Marine Terminal

The Pennsylvania Senate unanimously passed House Bill 666 to create the Southport Marine Terminal, which will provide hundreds – if not thousands – of new jobs to Philadelphia and the region and keep Pennsylvania ports competitive in the 21st century.

In these tough economic times, the Southport Marine Terminal will be a tremendous economic boost in the creation of jobs. The formation of Southport means that the thousands of highly skilled workers – long-shoremen, truck drivers, crane operators and others – can go back to work. It will also put Philadelphia on the map as a regional and a global competitor in cargo shipping.

The bill will transfer 180 acres of land at the Navy Yard from the city to the state to create the Southport Marine Terminal, which is located in our district.

For more than three centuries, the ports of Philadelphia have been a major center of commerce and trade for Pennsylvania and the entire Mid-Atlantic region. The shipping business has now become more global than ever. Philadelphia faces stiff competition from New York, Wilmington, Baltimore – and even ports clear across the country. This bill would make nearly 200 acres available for the new Southport shipping and container facility at the former Navy Yard in South Philadelphia. Combined with the dredging initiative on the Delaware River, this project will ensure that Philadelphia continues to have a world-class port. It will ensure that Pennsylvania does not lose out to our neighboring states in this lucrative industry.

This keeps Philadelphia competitive in cargo movement. Most importantly, it is the first step in putting people back to work by creating permanent jobs.



Senator Farnese meets with officials from Atlas Energy in Smithfield, Fayette County.

■ Marcellus Shale

Senator Farnese got a firsthand look and discussed his environmental and health concerns with energy industry officials as part of the recent Senate Democratic Policy Committee tour of a Marcellus Shale and Atlas Energy gas drilling site near Smithfield in Fayette County.

Senator Farnese said he took part in the tour to get a better understanding of the industry and its issues as discussion continues about a natural gas extraction tax or fee. Senator Farnese said he hopes to make safety and environmental concerns part of the discussion.

Policy committee members, other democratic senators and staff took the opportunity to observe how an actual Marcellus Shale drilling site operates. This industry offers enormous economic promise and a tremendous number of jobs. It is critical to ensure, through strong regulations, that these operations do not harm our environment or compromise public health and safety.

During the tour, lawmakers viewed drilling and land/water reclamation processes. Joining Senator Farnese for the tour were Senators Jay Costa (D-Allegheny), Richard Kasunic (D-Fayette), Jim Ferlo (D-Allegheny) and John Wozniak (D-Cambria).

Rhonda Hill Wilson, Robert Palaima, Steve Hearn, Senator Farnese, Captain James Roche, Steve Hastings, Marty Misculli and Jamie McDermott welcome Sea Star Lines to the Port of Philadelphia.



STATE SENATOR LARRY FARNESE – OFFICES TO SERVE YOU

1802 S. Broad St. • Philadelphia, PA 19145 • 215.952.3121 • Fax: 215.952.3155
Senate Box 203001 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-3001 • 717.787.5662 • Fax: 717.787.4531
Web Site: www.SenatorFarnese.com • Email: farnese@pasenate.com

■ Public Safety, Education and Jobs Prioritized in Budget

These tough economic times demanded tough economic choices in this year's budget. However, I believe this budget addresses the important issues of law enforcement, education and job creation.

- **Law Enforcement & Public Safety:** We were able to increase funds for law enforcement and public safety initiatives such as the Gun Violence Task Force and the Witness Relocation Program as well as to the courts.
- **Education:** We are again this year increasing funding for basic education. With the \$250-million increase, we continue to recognize that our investment in the children of the Commonwealth is one of our most important duties.
- **Job Creation:** A primary focus of government must also be the revitalization and stabilization of our state's economy. One of the bright spots in this budget is the increase of \$65.5 million in overall

funding for Community and Economic Development, which will go a long way toward job and business creation.

We still have more work to do. Pennsylvania must follow the lead of 48 other states and tax smokeless tobacco. And most importantly, when we address a severance tax on the natural gas industry, our first concern must be public safety, and we must ensure that funding goes toward environmental stewardship as well as strict regulation and enforcement of the industry.

Although much work remains, the budget does good things for the people of the 1st Senatorial District and the people of Pennsylvania.

■ Time for LIHEAP

Cash grants for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are based on income, family size, type of heating fuel and region. Crisis grants are provided to resolve heating emergencies, such as furnace failures or unexpected fuel shortages. In addition to proof of income and household size, applicants must provide a recent bill or a statement from their fuel dealer verifying their customer status and the type of fuel they use.

Applications are available at Senator Farnese's District Office, county assistance offices, local utility companies and community service agencies, such as Area Agencies on Aging or community action agencies.

Apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us
In Philadelphia, families may pick up LIHEAP applications at Sen. Farnese's office
1802 S. Broad St., South Philadelphia
or by calling 215-952-3121
from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

■ "Operation Touch of Home" Supports our Troops

"Operation Touch of Home," our partnership to collect phone cards and soccer balls, is an excellent way you can help us support our troops serving around the world.

I am working with the USO of Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey, Philadelphia Union, Philadelphia Independence, AT&T and the Blue Star Mothers to make sure that our troops know we are thinking of them and to let them know how much we appreciate their service to our country. We are asking people to show their support by donating a pre-paid phone card in any amount, a soccer ball or both.

Philadelphia Union kicked off the drive by donating 100 soccer balls. AT&T donated 50 \$20 pre-paid phone cards.

Pre-paid phone cards are always needed and appreciated because it is so important that our soldiers maintain regular connections with family and friends. Soccer balls are great

ice-breakers for our soldiers in making friends with children in other countries.

If you would like to show our troops how much their service means to you and to our country, please bring

a soccer ball or a pre-paid phone card to my District Office at 1802 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19145. We will deliver your donations to the USO for delivery to our soldiers.



Pictured left to right are Joe Brooks, President and COO, USO of Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey; Dave Dougherty, Vice-President, AT&T; Tracy Carter Dougherty, Board Chair, USO of Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey; State Senator Larry Farnese; Dave Debusschere, Chief Financial Officer, Philadelphia Union; Kelly Rowland, Philadelphia Independence; Amy Smerdzinski, Philadelphia Independence; Marian Moran, Chapter President, Blue Star Mothers.

■ Senior Expos

FISHTOWN

CENTER CITY



■ Mobile Offices Now Open

Senator Farnese is pleased to announce that two mobile offices, in addition to the district office, are now open to serve constituents. The Center City Mobile Office opened April 6 at the Philadelphia Senior Center, 509 South Broad Street. The office is open for walk-in service from 9 a.m. to noon the first Tuesday of every month.

The Fishtown Mobile Office opened July 7 at Neumann Senior Housing, 1601 Palmer St. at Frankford Ave. The office is open from 9 a.m. to noon, the first Wednesday of every month.

A staff member will be on site at each location with state brochures and materials and will be available to answer any questions you might have about Pennsylvania state government and programs for which you may qualify.

Senator Farnese's District Office will continue to serve constituents at 1802 South Broad St., Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Constituents may walk in or call at 215-952-3121.

■ Senator Farnese and Pennsylvania SPCA Partnership for Homeless Animals

Senator Farnese's "Have a Heart for the Animal" initiative will continue indefinitely. People from the First District continue to donate generously to our blanket and towel collection drive for shelter animals at the Pennsylvania SPCA.

Senator Farnese is pleased to partner with Pennsylvania SPCA CEO Sue Cosby to collect gently used blankets and towels that mean so much to the dogs, cats and other animals that are waiting to be adopted. According to Sue Cosby, the generosity of animal lovers across Philadelphia makes a genuine difference in the lives of hundreds of animals as they wait in shelters for their forever homes.

Each year, thousands of animals, who give so much and ask for so little, find their way to the shelters at the Pennsylvania SPCA and the Animal Care and Control Team (ACCT). On any given day, there are hundreds of

animals available for adoption waiting to find a permanent home.

People who would like to help the animals can drop off clean blankets and towels at the following locations:

- **Office of Senator Larry Farnese**
1802 South Broad Street
- **110over70 at the Marine Club**
1100 South Broad Street



FINANCIAL CORNER

■ Reduced Automobile Registration

If you are:

- Retired and receiving Social Security or other pensions; and
- Have a total income not exceeding \$19,200 annually, then you may be eligible for a reduction in your motor vehicle registration fee from \$36 to \$10 annually

Contact our district office at: (215) 952-3121 for more information.

■ Rent Rebates

The deadline to apply for Property Tax/Rent Rebates has been extended to December 31, 2010.

We encourage seniors and residents with disabilities to apply for the program, which provides rebates to residents who meet program criteria.

For more information, please contact my District Office at 215-952-3121.

My office is located at 1802 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19145.

■ PECO & PGW Programs

PECO and PGW have programs to help customers save money with energy-efficient appliances.

PECO will pay you \$35 to recycle your old, energy-guzzling refrigerator or freezer. If you have an older, working second refrigerator or freezer, it may be costing you more money than you think. Did you know that it could use three times more electricity than a newer model, consuming nearly \$150 in energy each year?

For more information, please visit www.pecosmartideas.com or call 1-888-5-PECO-SAVE (1-888-573-2672).

PGW is offering a \$300 credit to current customers who convert to a natural gas heating system. According to PGW, you can save money when you convert from oil or steam and when Pennsylvania's electric rate caps are removed in 2011.

For more information, please visit www.pgworks.com

■ Broad & Ritner Farmers Market Celebrates Grand Opening

The Farmers Market Program expanded to South Philadelphia this year at Broad and Ritner streets.

The grand opening ceremony included a ribbon cutting with children from the Fels Community Center and remarks with the Senator.

The market offers fresh fruits and vegetables from our region's farmers. It is a collaboration of the non-profit

Food Trust, The Caring People Alliance and the Lower Moyamensing Civic Association.

The Farmers Market Program combines nutrition education with a greater availability of fresh, affordable, healthy food. Thanks to a federal grant, the program also offers \$2 in Philly Food Bucks for every \$5 spent in SNAP/food stamps.



Children from Fels Community Center Daycare; Arlene Bell, President and CEO of the Caring People Alliance; and Senator Farnese celebrate the opening of the Food Trust Farmers Market at Broad and Ritner streets.

■ Neumann Senior Center

Neumann Senior Center marked the 50th Anniversary of HUD Section 202 with a celebratory event July 15 in Fishtown. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 202 provides affordable housing for elderly people and allows them to live independently.



Senator Farnese and Marie Brooks

HUD Section 202 is an example of federal dollars going to work and really producing for people like Marie Brooks, Neumann's first resident, who said that the program eased the burden of determining where to go next by providing a home for her and many other residents. Founded in 2005, Neumann Senior Center is a 69 unit, HUD Section 202 affordable housing community, which is home to 73 residents.

Senator Farnese is proud to continue the work of his grandfather, Andrew Farnese, who in 1966 procured funding and oversaw the creation of what is now known as Casa Farnese, a national model for senior housing. Senator Farnese remains committed to Section 202 projects and other projects that support our older citizens.

■ Le Méridien Joins Center City Hotel Scene

Le Méridien Philadelphia, a new four-star hotel, opened at 1421 Arch St., the site of the former YWCA and District Attorney's Office.

A grand opening ceremony included a ribbon cutting with Senator Farnese, hotel executives and city officials.

The 201-room hotel is housed in a 10-story Georgian revival-style structure with historical flair, located in the heart of the city's business district and less than one block from the expanding Pennsylvania Convention Center.

The opening of Le Méridien and the opening of Hotel Palomar on Rittenhouse

Square are important additions to the ongoing development in Center City. The new hotels further support Center City's revival and will attract international conventioners as well as a variety of conventions from around the country.

The Convention Center expansion is scheduled for completion in March 2011.



■ Beer Raid Hearings

Senator Farnese questioned the Liquor Control Board's use of resources at a recent public hearing in Harrisburg about the Philadelphia Beer Raids. Three well-respected tavern owners and a beer distributor testified that armed state police raided their businesses and confiscated scores of cases of beer because of an anonymous tip that the beers were not registered. While Senator Farnese supports the police,

he questions the use of armed officers in this situation when there are many nuisance bars associated with serious crimes such as shootings and robberies that should be the priority. Senator Farnese wants more resources committed to closing bars that truly present a nuisance and danger to the community. As a matter of public safety, Senator Farnese wants more resources dedicated to closing them and making sure that they are closed during the appeal process.

■ Tasty Baking Company Grand Opening



Tasty Baking Company marked its official grand opening event May 4 at the company's new, modernized, LEED-registered (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) bakery at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. According to the company, upon approval from the U.S. GreenBuilding Council, the new 345,000 square-foot home of Tastykake will be the world's largest "green" bakery, featuring energy-efficient HVAC, water conservation, the use of recycled building materials and day-light harvesting, among other environmentally efficient components. Now the world's largest "green" bakery, its relocation prevented 350 manufacturing jobs from leaving the city.

■ Legislation Addresses Influx of Bedbugs

We have all heard a lot recently about the tremendous influx of bedbugs in Philadelphia and the region. The bedbug population has increased by 500 percent in the past several years. In fact, Philadelphia ranked second only to New York in terms of the severity of the problem.

I have introduced legislation to address this problem. Senate Bill 1493 places responsibilities on apartment owners and hotel owners to eradicate bedbugs for the protection of the public. It also places a duty on tenants and hotel guests to report and notify landlords and owners when there is evidence of bedbug infestation for the protection of themselves and others. Bedbugs are a public nuisance, and it is a matter of public welfare to protect the citizens of Pennsylvania from this insect.

The legislation includes civil penalties for owners who fail to comply with the law. Fines would range from \$300 for each affected unit to \$1000 for each affected common area in a hotel or multi-unit building.

Under the law, landlords of multi-unit buildings and hotel owners would be responsible, at their own expense, for maintaining the building free of the presence of bedbugs. When the tenant or guest notifies the

owner that bedbugs are present or there is evidence of bedbugs, the owner would be required to hire a professional to eradicate the bedbugs and to inspect other units and common areas in the building. The owners would then provide written notice to the tenants and guests of those units and begin the eradication process, again at the owners' expense.

The only exception is for a rental unit where a professional applicator identifies the source of three or more infestations to have originated in one unit that has been leased by the same tenant during the time period of the previous infestations.

Additionally, hotel owners must conduct three professional inspections per year.

Landlords must hire a professional inspection prior to renewing a lease or prior to a new lease and take appropriate action if bedbugs are found. Owners must provide hotel guests and tenants with certification that the units have been inspected for the presence of bedbugs in accordance with this law.

The Department of Agriculture would be responsible for conducting educational programs and publishing an informational brochure, which owners would make available on site.

■ Stiffer Penalties for Hit-and-Run Fatalities

Senator Farnese co-sponsored legislation that would stiffen the penalties and increase the length of sentences for those convicted of fatal hit-and-run crashes.

The bill upgrades all instances of fatal hit-and-run violations to a felony. Currently some violations are misdemeanors. This change is important because felonies carry stiffer penalties, and a felony conviction has a much more serious and lasting impact on one's life than does a misdemeanor conviction. In addition to increased prison terms, fines have been substantially increased or for the first time required.



Sen. Farnese recently heard emotional testimony at a legislative hearing from two mothers who lost children to hit-and-run drivers.

The Philadelphia District Attorney's office supports the legislation of both bills.



STATE SENATOR LARRY FARNESE

Senate Box 203001
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3001

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARRISBURG, PA
PERMIT NO. 603

Printed on recycled paper

Around The First District



Senator Farnese presents a \$10,000 check to the Fairmount Sports Association on Opening Day. Pictured from left are Councilmember Bill Greenlee; Rich Yoka, Fairmount Sports Association; and Senator Farnese.

A.J. Thomson, Friends of Penn Treaty Park; Paul Kimport, owner of Johnny Brenda's; and Senator Farnese enjoy the annual Fishtown Shadfest.



Senator Farnese joins dignitaries in the official groundbreaking of the Francisville East Housing Development, a 44-unit rental development.

Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Dan Anders and Nurit Shein join Senator Farnese at the Mazzoni Center where the Philadelphia Bar Association introduced LGBT legal services.





STATE SENATOR LARRY FARNESE

Senate Box 203001
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3001

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARRISBURG, PA
PERMIT NO. 603

Printed on recycled paper

Around The First District



Children from Fels Community Center Daycare; Arlene Bell, President and CEO of the Caring People Alliance; and Senator Farnese celebrate the opening of the Food Trust Farmers Market at Broad and Ritner streets.

PennDOT officials Lester Toaso and John Nagle brief Senator Farnese, Whitman Council President Mark Squilla and assistant to Senator Farnese, Bob Theil, about the I-95 Sound and Safety Barriers Project.



State Representative Kenyatta Johnson and Senator Farnese at South Philadelphia High School.



From left: Louis DiRenzo, Delaware Valley Youth Athletic Association; Councilmember Jim Kenney; Ron Donatucci, Register of Wills; Senator Larry Farnese; Anthony DiBenedetto and Council President Anna Verna. Senator Farnese presented the check to the DVYAA at the Barry Playground, 18th and Bigler streets.

