



February 4, 2010

The Honorable  
PA House of Representatives  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Passage of SB 605 dealing with Bank Robbery

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our members, all of the banks and credit unions in the Commonwealth, we are asking for your vote in favor of Senate Bill 605, a bill to toughen the penalties on bank robbers and attempted bank robbers, as it is currently on the House Voting Schedule. In just the **first three quarters of 2009** (the most recent timeframe in which FBI data is available), over **206 bank robberies occurred in Pennsylvania**. That means thousands of Pennsylvanians working for and patronizing financial institutions in the Commonwealth were at risk.

Our organizations—the Pennsylvania Association of Community Bankers, the Pennsylvania Bankers Association and the Pennsylvania Credit Union Association—are working together to advocate legislation that would make robbery of a financial institution with a demand that does not contain a direct threat a Felony of the Second Degree. The demand by the perpetrator can be in the form of a spoken request or written note. Approximately **19% of bank robbers have been previously convicted in either federal or state court for bank robbery, bank burglary, or bank larceny**—we NEED to strengthen the PA bank robbery penalties to keep these repeat offenders off the streets!

Statistics from the FBI demonstrate that bank robberies in Pennsylvania are on the rise. Recent FBI statistics on bank crime list **Pennsylvania as third behind California and Texas in the number of bank robbery occurrences**. As a result of this frightening revelation, we believe it is time to increase the state penalties for this crime and work to make our financial institutions a safer place for customers and employees and their communities.

Bank robberies are traumatic events that foster a sense of fear in a community while hurting the area's economic vitality. This crime, which **occurs on average once every weekday**, affects communities across Pennsylvania, urban, suburban and rural. Please help this bill pass because Pennsylvania needs a rational, sensible solution to our bank robbery crisis.

If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of our organizations.

Sincerely,

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Government Relations  
Pennsylvania Association of Community Bankers

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Vice President of Government Relations  
Pennsylvania Bankers Association

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Vice President, Government Affairs  
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