



Economic Development Update

From State Senator
Jake Corman



34th District

Dear Friend:

As we begin a new two-year legislative session here in Harrisburg, I remain committed to serving my district and ensuring that our area is strongly represented in the General Assembly.

Many important issues face us, including the need to reduce taxes, promote economic development and invest in programs that will help to create new jobs and opportunities for area businesses and residents.

In the coming months, the General Assembly will also begin the process of developing a state budget. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will work hard to hold the line on spending and keep taxes down, so that companies can continue to create jobs.

Economic development is a top priority because we need to attract businesses and industries and help local companies to grow if we want to improve the quality of life in this area and encourage our young people to remain here after they graduate.

I also look forward to working with you – my constituents – on any problems or concerns you have. Your input is important to me, because it helps me to better represent you and this area.

My staff and I are here to serve you – our district offices and website are listed on this newsletter, which will update you on some important economic development initiatives taking place in the 34th senatorial district.

Sincerely,

Empire Kosher Poultry Receives \$3 Million Grant to Upgrade Facility

Last year I included a line item in the state's capital budget for Empire Kosher. I recently worked with Gov. Rendell to release the \$3 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant to make important infrastructure upgrades to the Empire Kosher Poultry facility in Mifflintown.

This project will enable Empire Kosher to retain over 1,000 jobs and help to create up to 120 new jobs over the next five years. Additionally, Empire Kosher contracts with more than 100 local farmers used in growing chickens and

turkeys, and they will also benefit.

Money will be spent on new refrigeration systems, a new roof, flooring, processing equipment and other equipment and fixtures that have been untouched – in some cases for decades.

With this grant and the incoming money from investors, the company will be able to become more efficient in its processes, develop new products, and increase capacity to ultimately gain market share and grow in central Pennsylvania.

Empire Kosher is the largest processor of kosher poultry products in the U.S. and the largest employer in Juniata County. The grant will support Empire Kosher's aggressive five-year, \$17.5 million Capital Expenditure Revitalization Plan to revitalize its business operations by investing in the infrastructure of its dated processing facility. The Juniata County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) will coordinate all administrative functions associated with the grant, and work closely with the Empire management team throughout the project.

The Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) is a Commonwealth



Senator Jake Corman joins Governor Edward G. Rendell in presenting \$3 million in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) funds to the Juniata County Industrial Development Authority for infrastructure upgrades to the Empire Kosher Poultry facility in Mifflintown.

grant program which provides funding for the acquisition and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic, and historical improvement projects. The \$640 million in RACP funding approved by the Legislature in July is a vital component of an economic-stimulus package that I strongly supported and voted for. It will leverage \$2.3 billion in grants, loans and guarantees over the next three years to generate an anticipated \$5 billion in private-sector investment to help start new businesses in Pennsylvania and help existing companies expand.

RACP works concurrently with stimulus programs that are already underway.

"I want to personally thank Senator Corman on behalf of all the employees, suppliers and investors of Empire for his assistance throughout this critically important project. The Senator played a key role in securing these funds which will help to ensure that Empire Kosher Poultry remains a strong and vital company with wonderful growth potential in Central Pennsylvania. Not only will Empire benefit but also the entire regional economic community at large, all because of the Senator's involvement in this critical project."

– Rob Van Naarden,
CEO of Empire Kosher Poultry

Improving Telecommunications System Will Help Businesses Be More Competitive

When I became chairman of the Senate Communications and Technology Committee, I made it my top priority to look closely at ways to provide state residents with greater access to broadband and other new telecommunications services.

My goal was to ensure that Pennsylvania moves quickly in developing a state-of-the-art and affordable telecommunications network that reaches all areas of the state. That's because the delivery of broadband services is just as important to our economy and our future as roads, bridges and railways.

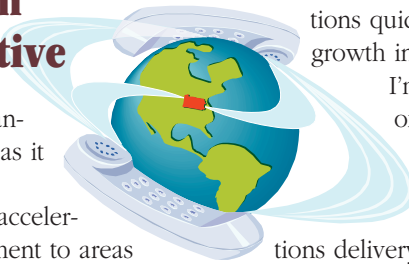
Late last year, the General Assembly took a major step in helping to promote telephone competition, implement consumer protections, and accelerate broadband deployment in all areas of the state. We passed legislation I spearheaded that makes significant changes to Pennsylvania's telecommunications law.

Known as "Chapter 30," the new law will speed up broadband deployment to communities throughout the commonwealth and deliver consumer benefits – including faster and affordable broadband connections to schools and businesses.

It will help to close a digital divide that currently exists by making broadband connections more affordable throughout the state, particularly in rural areas where there was no access to newer technologies. Revitalizing Pennsylvania's telecommunications industry will create more jobs, improve educational opportunities, provide greater access to health care services, and make the state a leader in cutting-edge technology. All this is important to keeping our state competitive and

enabling us to take advantage of new technology as it becomes available.

The new law targets accelerated broadband deployment to areas within Pennsylvania for economic development, to encourage companies to stay in the Commonwealth and to gain access to the technology they need to be competitive. It allows for business and industrial parks to receive broadband connec-



tions quickly to spur economic growth in Pennsylvania.

I'm pleased that members of the House and Senate worked hard to bring these important changes to our telecommunications delivery system. Pennsylvania will better serve its residents by aggressively encouraging and developing a vibrant and innovative telecommunications industry that will deliver broadband products to every corner and every town in Pennsylvania.

\$500,000 State Grant Will Fund Improvements to County 911 System

Juniata County is in the processing upgrading its 911 system, as a result of a \$500,000 state grant I recently secured for the Juniata County Commissioners for this project. This spring, the first two zip codes will be completed for addressing.

Approximately one-half was spent to upgrade the communications system, primarily the microwave links between the 911 dispatch center and the dispatch tower on Tuscarora Mountain.

This included an automatic start generator for the dispatch tower in case of power outages.

The second half is being spent on the rural addressing project which should be completed by this fall.

This will give all residents a specific street address, which will help the emergency services find a location more quickly when a 911 call comes in.

The older Rural Route and HCR sys-

tems will be phased out, which will also assist in mail delivery and package delivery. Municipalities are cooperating by assuring that all roads have a specific name and by posting the road names at intersections. The first release of new addresses will take place this spring. Those will be for the East Waterford 17021 and Honey Grove 17035 delivery areas.

This upgrade is part of a long-term approach to upgrading our County 911 system. Eventually we hope to make improvements to allow 911 operators to receive a cellular caller's full cell phone number and locate via cell tower triangulation the

location from which the call was placed. We also need to install additional tower sites to improve radio coverage in many areas of the county.

Improving our 911 and emergency response systems will be costly, but it is crucial to public safety.



Helpful Websites

<http://www.jbi.org>

This is the official Economic Development group for Juniata County.

<http://www.juniatavalleychamber.org>

Juniata Valley Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.co.juniata.pa.us>

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