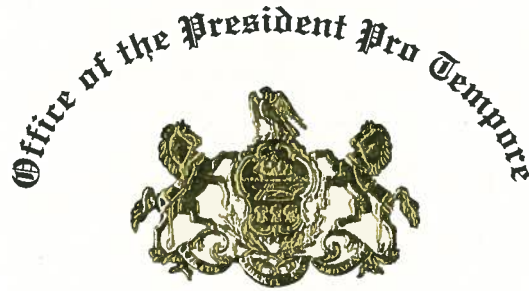


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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

August 3, 2009

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The Honorable Samuel H. Smith  
Minority Leader  
PA House of Representatives  
423 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Smith:

I am writing to inform you that Senate Bill 850, if amended by the House, will be taken up by the Pennsylvania Senate without delay. After the Senate recesses today, we will reconvene at the six-hour call of the President Pro Tempore. I will exercise this option if an amended Senate Bill 850 is sent to us for consideration. Pennsylvanians have waited too long for a balanced budget that doesn't raise taxes on working families, helps our seniors and funds the essential services of government.

Senate Bill 850, as amended by the Kotik amendment, would fit within the three parameters that the Senate Republicans and taxpayers of Pennsylvania have expressed in dealing with this budget crisis: a budget that doesn't raise broad based taxes, a budget that spends less than last fiscal year, and a budget that is sustainable over three years. Senate Bill 850, as amended by the Kotik amendment, would allow the General Assembly to pass on to the Governor a balanced budget that is fiscally responsible, yet maintains funding for critical services during these difficult economic times.

This budget process has challenged us all. However, we must act now in sending Governor Rendell a balanced budget so that our state workers can be paid, and so that billions of dollars will not be withheld from our local schools, hospitals and social service organizations. It would be my hope that the Governor would not blue-line a budget that has received a majority of votes in both the House and the Senate.

Senator Pileggi and I wish to inform you that Senate Bill 850, as amended, would be taken up by the Senate without delay.

Sincerely,

Joe Scarnati

Lieutenant Governor/President Pro Tempore

cc: All Members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives