



State Representative **JIM STRUZZI**

Proudly Representing the People of the 62nd District



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Dear Friends,

Happy holidays from my family and district staff to you. As we approach the beginning of a new year, I'm reminded of the many things we must be thankful for carrying us forward. We cannot deny 2023 has had its share of challenges. At the same time, it is a fact that we live in the greatest country in the world...one that is known for its resiliency and fortitude. Those traits are also evident in you, the people I represent.

The focus tends to fall on Harrisburg. You've heard the phrase "All politics is local," and the greatest satisfaction my staff and I get is from helping someone with a problem they bring to our district offices.

Thank you for letting us serve you through our offices in Blairsville, Homer City and Indiana. Doing so is a pleasure we enjoy and a promise we will keep heading into 2024.

Sincerely,

Jim Struzzi



Reducing Completion Time for Road Projects

It's a common complaint – why does this road project take so long to complete?

I've introduced **House Bill 1833**, which would allow PennDOT and the Turnpike Commission to use Design Build Best Value (DBBV) as an alternative procurement process for infrastructure design and construction.

DBBV allows project owners to consider a variety of factors when obtaining materials and services required for a project. It permits them to define the selection process based on their organizational goals and project drivers and requires

the designers and contractors to work together.

I reached out to House Democrat Chairman Ed Neilson from Philadelphia to secure support from across the aisle. The result was a unanimous vote of support by the committee, and the legislation may be taken up by the full House.

Getting a bill to this point is an accomplishment, with Democrats in the majority and controlling the voting calendar. Here is some additional legislation I've introduced:

House Bill 22 – would develop a statewide process to place Medicaid patients with behavioral health or other long-term care needs in appropriate care settings in a timely matter.

House Bill 29 – would remove the cap which limits the maximum authorized number of borough police officers.

House Bill 1325 – would extend Pennsylvania's Lemon Law to cover farm equipment.

House Resolution 174 - would direct the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) to conduct a study and issue a report on the state of mass/public transit in Pennsylvania's rural communities.

To view a complete list of my legislation, please visit www.legis.state.pa.us and type my name into the search engine.

A Sad Irony

I recently toured Seward Generation's Indiana County facility, our country's largest waste coal-fired power plant, with a number of my colleagues in the General Assembly.

We were reminded of the industry's positive impact on jobs and energy production as well as Seward's efforts to reclaim abandoned coal refuse piles and clean streams. This is a great example of how the industry and environmental concerns can coexist.

Our tour happened just before Thanksgiving and a few hours prior to Gov. Josh Shapiro announcing his intention to appeal a court ruling that the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is unconstitutional. This is the last thing we need as we try to attract people, jobs and businesses back to Pennsylvania.

Dragging this out will only send more industry and investment to other states as has been the case for the last four years.



A few days before the governor's announcement, I spoke at a state Capitol news conference and joined my House colleagues in asking him to **NOT** waste taxpayer time and money by appealing the ruling. My **House Bill 195** would eliminate the RGGI regulation and prevent future similar proposals from proceeding without legislative approval.



PA STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JIM STRUZZI

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AROUND THE 62ND DISTRICT



River Valley High School freshman Gavin Evanichko is the son of John and Angela Evanichko and recipient of the Civil Air Patrol's Billy Mitchell Award.



Volunteering at the United Way of Indiana County's annual Pancake and Sausage Day



Thank you to Todd Marino, the host of WCCS' "Indiana in the Morning" program, for the invitation to join you at 7:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of every month.

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It's simple to receive these updates directly. Just visit my website at

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