

Joint Hearing of the Senate Community, Economic, and Recreational Development Committee  
and the House Finance Committee on  
House Bill 2340 and Senate Bill 1279

Economic Development and Fiscal Accountability Act

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Submitted Testimony by:

Ed Boito, Special Campaign Director  
The Pennsylvania Works! Campaign

Good Morning. My name is Ed Boito. I am the Special Campaign Manager for Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture). PennFuture is a statewide, public interest, membership organization with five offices throughout the Commonwealth. The campaign that I am coordinating within PennFuture is the *Pennsylvania Works!* Campaign. The mission of the campaign is to advocate for initiatives that generate economic opportunities and job creation, promote government efficiency, and create vibrant, prosperous, and livable communities throughout Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Works! campaign is comprised of 54 state-wide and regional organizations with a wide variety of interests: Community revitalization; housing for our working citizens; environmental and conservation organizations, groups interested in restoring existing and older buildings, smart growth and planning groups, and organizations interested in better transportation planning and transportation options.

I submit here today our collective support for both House Bill 2340, sponsored by Rep. David Levdansky, and Senate Bill 1279, sponsored by Senator Patrick Browne. These bills will provide greater transparency and accountability, providing Pennsylvanians the opportunity to judge whether or not their tax dollars are being spent wisely.

Just as important, these bills help ensure that subsidies will create jobs that pay living wages, as well as provide the state with tools to reclaim funds when grant recipients fail to meet the job creation promises that were made.

Every public investment toward economic stability and prosperity must provide meaningful return on the taxpayer's investment. We need to insure that state-awarded business subsidies are consistent with the spirit of the Keystone Principles to insure accountable returns in the form of tax revenues, good jobs and lasting value for taxpayers. The legislature must adopt standards that require a significant return on investment and that recoup ill spent monies where necessary, if recipients of subsidies don't perform in an accountable and responsible way. We urge both chambers of the legislature, as well as members of both sides of the aisle, to pass these bills.