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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

April 18, 2006

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Judge Phyllis R. Streitl
Chester County Court of Common Pleas
2 N. High St.
West Chester, PA19380

Dear Judge Streitl:

It has recently been brought to my attention that on March 26, 2006, Mr. William Taylor Reil, a defendant in Criminal Action Number 4470-02 before the Court of Common Pleas, was found guilty of violating two provisions of the Transportation Code, 75 Pa. C.S.A. § 7122 (3) and 75 Pa. C.S.A. § 1543 (a).

I have come to know Mr. Reil very well during the past 14 years and I respect his understanding of the law concerning the right of an individual to travel, among other things. I believe Mr. Reil has a better understanding of this area of the law than many licensed attorneys.

While I am not a licensed attorney, I have asked a member of my staff who is a Pennsylvania licensed attorney to examine Mr. Reil's understanding of this complex issue. The conclusion reached by my staff member was that Mr. Reil has thoroughly researched the issue and has based his arguments on solid legal precedent. I have also performed my own in-depth research over the years and I, too, have reached the conclusion that Mr. Reil stands on solid legal footing.

The crux of the issue is whether Title 75 can properly be applied to an individual. Within an individual's right to liberty is the inherent right to travel. If one's movement can be restrained, such restraint is intrinsically a restraint of his liberty. Mr. Reil's use of an automobile is simply an extension of his personal liberty to move about as he wishes.

My research, and that of my staff, confirms that Title 75 can only properly be applied to commercial vehicles and commercial use of the roads. An individual who wishes to utilize an automobile or other means of conveyance in order to exercise his right to travel cannot lawfully be required to obtain a license to drive or to register his automobile in order to operate it freely on our roads.

I have not reached the above conclusions without understanding the vast implications that would follow from these conclusions. I am well aware that a ruling of this nature would "undo" years of enforcement of our existing laws. I am also well aware of the enormous economic impact such a ruling would have on the Department of Transportation.

However, no one today would dare argue that we should not have eliminated slavery because it was too costly to the American economy. When rights are being violated, no cost is too high to return those rights to the individuals who hold them. Slavery is the ultimate restriction of one's liberty. It limits one's rights in every conceivable way, including one's right to move about freely. Likewise, refusing to acknowledge an individual's right to travel is an unconstitutional restriction of one's liberty and should not be permitted to continue in Pennsylvania.

I respectfully request that you grant Mr. Reil's request for reconsideration of the March 27 verdict and review the facts and circumstances surrounding his request. He does not wish to perpetuate this situation any more than necessary; he is simply asking for an acknowledgement and protection of his right to travel and would like to return to living the peaceful life he has led over the years.

I would certainly be happy to speak with you concerning this issue if you would like to do so. I appreciate your willingness to consider the views I have expressed in this letter.

Sincerely,



Samuel E. Rohrer
State Representative
128th Legislative District

SER:jac

cc: William Taylor Reil
