

Montgomery County Association of Township Officials

Strengthening and nurturing local government for local needs.



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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July 9, 2010

Re: House Bill No. 2431

Dear Representative:

As you are now undoubtedly aware, Representative Thomas Calatgirone, Berks County, has introduced House Bill No. 2431. House Bill 2431 proposes inter alia, to "establish the county as the basic unit of local government" and further, to "establish municipalities under the jurisdiction of the County and determine the relationship among these municipalities and the County." This clearly challenges the sovereignty of local government and shifts the decisions by the people's elected representatives further away from where the people live.

This bill, if enacted, will require changing the Commonwealth's constitution, forever change how services are delivered to the people, and consolidates authority and places corporate powers further from where people live, work and play. The MCATO Executive Board voted to oppose this bill and make you aware, not only of our Association taking a position on this issue, but asking its members to contact, or continue to contact their Representatives in the General Assembly and make them aware of MCATO's opposition to HB2431 and any attempt to move local government service delivery further away from the people and where they live.

We respectfully request that as a member of the PA General Assembly, you will consider our position and support local government as presently set forth in the Pennsylvania's Constitution. Please know that we stand ready to work with you and the General Assembly in finding solutions to improving local government and achieving efficiency and cost effectiveness at all levels of Government.

On behalf of the Executive Board, thank you for your time and considering our position on this issue of vital importance to the people who live, work and enjoy Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or if we can be able to assist you in any way. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

W. Keith Freed, MCATO President

Cc: MCATO Executive Committee
Permanent file

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