

Legislative UPDATE

**From State Senator
Joe Scarnati**



News on PILT Payments to Local Governments

Dear Local Official:

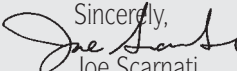
Throughout my tenure as your state senator, one of my legislative priorities has been to increase the amount of money that local governments receive in the form of payments in lieu of taxes for state forests, parks and game lands.

Our rural area is home to approximately one million acres of state-owned land, and for too long we have not received sufficient state funding through PILT. I'm pleased to report that over the next month, school districts, municipalities and counties will receive significant new revenue through PILT payments.

The funding will come from legislation I sponsored last year to increase Pennsylvania's payments in lieu of taxes on state forests, parks and game lands from \$1.20 an acre to \$3.60 an acre. That money is shared equally among school districts, counties and municipalities.

The new law will generate more than \$8 million in additional payments, and our area will receive a large share of that funding because we have such a large amount of state forest and game land. The increased PILT payment is expected to be sent to local governments in late March or early April. This payment will be for the 2006 (06-07 school) year. In September 2007, there will be another payment for the 2007 (07-08 school) year.

Until now, the Commonwealth was not paying its fair share on land that it owns and property owners were having to pick up the additional burden. I have stated time and time again that the state must be held accountable for these taxes and not expect the taxpayers of this area to foot the bill. The additional PILT payments will help our local governments meet the increasing demand for services.

Sincerely,

Joe Scarnati

Overall Land Subject to PILT

Of the state land that is subjected to the payment in lieu of taxes, 2,017,301 acres are forests and state parks, 1,397,429 acres are game lands, and 6,100 are acres owned by the Fish and Boat Commission.

In the 25th Senatorial District, percentages of the overall land subject to PILT are staggering. The breakdown by county is as follows and represents acres:

COUNTY	GAME LANDS	STATE FORESTS	PARKS
Cameron	12,963	130,535.24	10,713.4
Clearfield	28,326.26	97,029.06	1,286
Elk	72,061.12	73,408.58	2,990.36
Jefferson	35,303.56	9,612.59	1,362
McKean	24,801.56	3,534.51	617.98
Potter	18,696.92	266,847.62	2,136.75
Tioga	25,394.59	149,582.41	1,359.58
Warren	37,423.22	100.41	804.68
TOTAL	254,970.2	730,650.4	21,270.8

Senator Scarnati represents all or a portion of the counties that encompass the acreages listed above. Due to the small portion owned by the Fish and Boat Commission, their numbers are not included.

My Offices Are Open to Serve You

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