



## 50<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

### STATE REPRESENTATIVE **BUD COOK**

#### CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE WITH A **BLESSING AND A BURGER!**



It was such an honor to host the second annual Blessing of the Balers at the state Capitol in early May. This year, we also teamed up with several agriculture advocacy groups to mark May is Beef Month with some delicious Pennsylvania beef burgers!

It was truly a joyous celebration of our state's top industry, with Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding and folks from the Pennsylvania Beef Council, Cattleman's Association and Farm Bureau, as well as the Rev. Donald Wilson from Greene County, addressing the crowd.

We had a New Holland tractor and baler on-site that was manufactured just down the road from the Capitol in Lancaster County, as well as a John Deere tractor and baler brought in from Halifax in northern Dauphin County.

The very first Blessing of the Balers took place right here in Greene County, and I was thrilled to bring it to Harrisburg again this year to raise awareness about our state's top industry and symbolically bless our balers and farmers across the state in hopes of a productive hay season. I'm already looking forward to next year!

#### **FIGHTING FOR THE COKEBURG DAM**



At my invitation, the House Republican Policy Committee convened a hearing in February to discuss and strategize ways to prevent the potential drainage of our beloved Cokeburg Dam by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Thank you to Cokeburg Borough Council President Holly Detts-Dranzo and Cokeburg Volunteer Fire Department Chief Dave Lambert for taking the time to testify before lawmakers from various areas of the state. Local

people know their local needs the best, and they did a great job helping my colleagues understand how vital the dam is as both a recreational destination and a public safety training resource.

I will continue to advocate for a solution to this issue that has dragged on for far too long thanks to DEP continuously "moving the ball" as our leaders in Cokeburg aim to comply with regulations and keep the dam in place. Video of the hearing is available at [www.PAGOPPolicy.com](http://www.PAGOPPolicy.com)

#### **IMPROVING THE PROPERTY TAX, RENT REBATE PROGRAM**

My offices help hundreds of senior citizens each year file for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. While we are always happy to do so, we also see how the application process could easily be streamlined.

I have introduced House Bill 2134, which would streamline the application process by allowing people to simultaneously apply for the rebates when filing annual returns for the state Personal Income Tax. Additionally, my measure would require the Department of Revenue to provide previous rebate recipients with a copy of an application that is pre-filled with information already known to the department.

My proposal is one of three we have proposed to improve the program. House Bill 2125 would establish mandatory processing timelines for property tax and rent rebate applications by requiring the department to decide on a completed application within 10 days of receipt. House Bill 2129 would permanently establish a Dec. 31 deadline to apply for each year's program.

The bills have been referred to the House Finance Committee.



## Waynesburg District Office

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## California District Office

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## West Greene District Office

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 **RepBudCook.com**

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SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE

*50th District*

STATE REP. BUD COOK

## HOW May We Help You?

To best serve everyone in the 50th Legislative District, I operate three local offices in Waynesburg, West Greene and California.

Here are just a few of the services we can provide:

- ★ PennDOT paperwork, including driver's license and vehicle registration applications and renewals.
- ★ Information and applications for senior citizen benefit programs, including Property Tax/Rent Rebate and PACE/PACENET prescription drug programs.
- ★ Information and applications for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- ★ Help with securing birth and death certificates (photo identification required).
- ★ Information about legislation.
- ★ Assistance with resolving matters relating to state agencies.

### Advocating for PA Energy Jobs

In March, I joined in calling on Gov. Josh Shapiro to stop beating down the state's energy industry with policies that are driving up prices for consumers and chasing producers/employers to other states. Pennsylvania may be the nation's largest energy exporter, but we have the potential to do so much more.



### Supporting the Second Amendment

It was great running into Jim Stoker of Firearm Owners Against Crime at the annual Second Amendment Rally at the state Capitol in April.



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[www.RepBudCook.com](http://www.RepBudCook.com) for a mix of local and Capitol news.