



## **News for Immediate Release**

**July 23, 2013**

### **Corbett Administration, Partners in Tax Practitioner and Business Communities Achieve Significant Tax Appeals Reform**

**Harrisburg** – After working for years to implement administrative improvements to the state tax appeals process, the Corbett Administration, working in partnership with associations representing the business and tax practitioner communities, achieved significant legislative tax appeals reform as part of the recently enacted state budget.

“The tax appeals reform signed into law by Governor Corbett a few weeks ago capitalizes on national best practices to implement taxpayer-friendly changes and improve the integrity of appeal decisions,” Revenue Secretary Dan Meuser said. “As a result, the appeals process will be more fair, more transparent and more accountable to the taxpayers of Pennsylvania.”

Key changes include restructuring the Board of Finance and Revenue within the Treasury department to better address tax appeals functions by April 2014. Three new independent board members will replace the current six board members representing various agencies of state government, and each of the three new board members must meet minimum standards for experience with accounting and state tax law.

Meuser noted these changes are anticipated to improve Pennsylvania’s ranking in multi-state reviews of tax appeals processes.

“The Department of Revenue drafted the improvements to the Tax Reform Code, and the Pennsylvania Chamber and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants worked throughout the spring and early summer to gain the support of the Legislature and the three Row Offices impacted by the changes,” Gene Barr, President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, said. “This achievement is the culmination of months of work, and we’re grateful to the Corbett Administration for the opportunity to participate in such significant reform that will make the tax appeals process more fair in Pennsylvania.”

Prior to achieving this legislative reform, beginning in 2011, the Department of Revenue implemented a number of administrative improvements to the tax appeals process that streamlined operations and improved taxpayer service. Most notably, the Department began considering requests for compromise in cases where the compromise illustrates doubt regarding liability and/or it promotes effective tax

administration. This change allowed taxpayers an opportunity to resolve tax appeals in a matter of weeks, rather than endure a potentially costly process that could last years.

The department also achieved legislative appeals reform last year and effected changes designed to reduce issues that result in tax appeals and make the appeals process more fair and less cumbersome for taxpayers.

"This most recent tax appeals reform is a victory for Pennsylvania taxpayers and delivers on my campaign promise to make the tax appeals process more objective and taxpayer-friendly," Governor Corbett said.

Tax appeals reform was one element of a comprehensive tax reform plan proposed by Governor Corbett and executed as part of the 2013-14 budget.

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