

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

January 13, 2017

The Honorable Jeh Charles Johnson
Secretary
United States Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

As you are aware, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was notified by the United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) that restrictions on Pennsylvania residents under the Real ID Act of 2005 (Real ID) will soon begin. These restrictions will impact access to federal buildings on January 30, 2017, and air travel beginning January 22, 2018.

Currently, our offices, representing the Governor and Leaders of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, have been in communication to resolve Pennsylvania's non-compliance with Real ID. We have looked at areas of non-compliance with Real ID and ways in which Pennsylvania can become compliant in the most cost-effective and straightforward way possible. We are committed to resolving this issue during our new legislative session, which began on January 3, 2017.


In addition to the previously mentioned discussions between the Governor, Senate and House of Representatives, several bills have been introduced in their respective legislative chambers seeking to make Pennsylvania compliant by repealing Act 38 of 2012, which prevents Pennsylvania from participating in Real ID.

As a result of the collaboration mentioned above between the Governor, Senate, and House, as well as the recently introduced legislation in both chambers, we respectfully request an extension to allow Pennsylvania time to become compliant with the Real ID requirements. We believe an extension commensurate with the states of Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, and North Dakota, will provide the time we need to address the Real ID provisions.

We appreciate the assistance we have received from USDHS and are committed to resolving this issue during the new legislative session.

Sincerely,


TOM WOLF
Governor


JOE SCARNATI
President Pro Tempore
Senate of Pennsylvania


MIKE TURZAI
Speaker
Pennsylvania House of Representatives

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JAKE CORMAN
Majority Leader
Senate of Pennsylvania



DAVE REED
Majority Leader
Pennsylvania House of Representatives



JAY COSTA
Democratic Leader
Senate of Pennsylvania



FRANK DERMODY
Democratic Leader
Pennsylvania House of Representatives