

I. Ethics Complaint Against House Majority Leader Mike Turzai

Mike Turzai, Majority Leader of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, was given a large donation from a political action committee (PAC) three days before a bill that PAC was against was supposed to be voted on. Mr. Turzai then used his power to fulfill the wishes of that PAC; the legislation was not voted on and it died.

We contend that this exchange of money for legislative action violated section §1103 (c) of the Public Official and Employee Ethics Act.

The legislation in question was HB 1750, which would have banned live pigeon shoots in Pennsylvania. The PAC was the Flyers Victory Fund (FVF), which is the electioneering arm of the Pennsylvania Flyers Association (PAFA). On the PAFA website, <http://www.paflyers.com/#!about>, it states:

“The Pennsylvania Flyers Association (PAFA) was established by a group of shooting enthusiasts committed to promoting and protecting bird shooting for future generations. Today, our membership has broadened to include individual sportsmen, sportsmens clubs and regulated shooting preserves throughout Pennsylvania.”

This is critical, as the sole reason for the existence of the PAFA, and the FVF, is the protection of live pigeon shoots. Therefore the only logical reason why they donated \$3,000 to Mr. Turzai on October 17, 2014 was to influence Mr. Turzai on the specific legislation that was to be voted on October 20th, 2014.

Here is the donation the FVF made to Mr. Turzai. The full campaign finance report from the FVF is included as **Exhibit #1**.

To Whom Paid			MO	DAY	YEAR	
Friends of Mike Turzai						
Mailing Address 110 Main Capitol			10	17	2014	\$ 3,000.00
City Harrisburg	State PA	Zip Code (Plus 4) 17120-2028	Description of Expenditure contribution			

Please note that the address the donation is listed to, “110 Main Capitol, Harrisburg, PA” is for Rep. Turzai’s official District office and not his campaign office. That is greatly disturbing as it means that the Flyers Victory Fund may have delivered the donation to Mr. Turzai at his office at the State Capitol.

II. Evidence of Quid Pro Quo

The evidence that there was reciprocation for the FVF donation is that Mr. Turzai had stated he would bring HB 1750 to a vote before he received the FVF donation, and it was only after getting the PAC money that his position changed.

This was recorded in the following article, which goes in detail to describe how Mr. Turzai acted on behalf to the FVF to kill the legislation:

<http://newsitem.com/opinion/days-before-pigeon-vote-money-flowed-from-flyers-1.1781286>

"...Turzai told former state Sen. Roy Afflerbach and retired Humane Society police officer Johnna Seeton he planned to bring the bill to the Rules Committee for an up-or-down vote. The Senate had previously passed the bill, 36-12. Gov. Tom Corbett (R) had said if the bill came to him, he would sign it.

However, Turzai did not bring up the bill in the first of two scheduled Rules Committee meetings. Rep. Dan Frankel, a member of the committee and Democratic caucus chair, says when HB 1750 didn't come up, the committee members "believed it would come up in the second committee meeting," especially since it had been on the agenda. However, Turzai cancelled that second meeting, effectively blocking the bill from being discussed and voted upon in both the committee and on the House floor on the last day of a two-year session."

Further evidence that HB 1750 was going to be heard on October 20th comes from the Twitter account of the Pennsylvania House Republicans, who released the following tweet on the morning of October 20th. Please note that "HB 1750" was one of the bills expected to be voted on:



PA House Republicans @PAHouseGOP · Oct 20

Bills anticipated on concurrence today in
#PAHouse: HB 80, HB 1135, HB 1750, HB
2178, HB 1357, HB 1874. Session starts at
11.



Mr. Turzai's actions in keeping HB 1750 from being voted on caused great public controversy. On November 10th, 2014, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* published a story exposing that the FVF donated a total of \$20,000 on October 17th to key members of the rules committee (\$1,000 to 17 members and \$3,000 to Mr. Turzai):

http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/harrisburg_politics/Pigeon-shooters-drop-20k-on-key-committee-members-before-vote.html

“Campaign finance records show that 17 members of the powerful Rules Committee were given \$1,000 checks from the Flyers Fund on Oct. 17. The recipients included Rep. Bill Adolph and Rep. Tom Killion of Delaware County, Rep. Bob Godshall of Montgomery County, and Rep. Kathy Watson of Bucks County.

Turzai got \$3,000.”

The Morning Call also ran a piece on the scandal:

<http://www.mcall.com/opinion/white/blog/mc-stephen-colbert-on-eating-dogs-20141030-column.html>

“After passing the state Senate 36-12 the week before, the bill died last week when House Majority Leader Mike Turzai refused to let it be voted out of the House Rules Committee, where it died.

Coincidentally enough, members of the Rules Committee’s Republican majority, including Turzai, received campaign contributions totaling \$20,000 three days earlier from the Flyers Victory Fund, a pro-pigeon-hunt lobbying group.

According to the Flyers Victory Fund’s latest online campaign finance report, the beneficiaries, all on Oct. 17, included committee chairman Turzai, who pocketed \$3,000, and every Republican in the committee, who got \$1,000 apiece.”

III. Emails and Documents from the Pennsylvania Flyers Association

Emails have come into our possession that show the role the PAFA played in the campaign they waged against HB 1750.

In the following email sent on October 9, 2014, a word document was attached (**Exhibit #2**).

-----Original Message-----

From: amy maseychik [<mailto:amaseychik@aol.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2014 5:33 PM

To: amaseychik@aol.com

Subject: PAFA members URGENT...HB1750...

Attention PAFA Members:

Please see the attached letter regarding the upcoming Senate vote on HB1750.

The Word document contained the following:

October 9, 2014

Dear PAFA members,

Several weeks ago, we were able to get PA House bill 1750 off the schedule for a vote in the PA State Senate. Contained in this bill is the ban on live pigeon shoots.

[HOUSE BILL 1750](#)

Recently, Heidi Prescott, Senior VP of Campaigns and Outreach of HSUS, put on a full court press to bring this bill to the floor for a vote once more. We are sending this urgent request out to our membership, our PA members in particular, and ask that anyone who has contacts, friends or relatives residing in the Commonwealth, to immediately contact their state representative and other PA state senators to voice your opposition to this ban; asking them to vote no on this bill so that it doesn't return to the House for a final vote!

[PA STATE SENATORS](#)

To make it easier, we have provided links to HB1750 and the membership list of PA state senators by district. Your support in helping squash this bill is greatly appreciated, as once more we put all our efforts into retaining our rights as sportsmen and preserving our sport.

Thank you,

PAFA Executive Board

What we learn from this document is that the PAFA was working hard to not have HB 1750 reach the House floor.

Although they claimed to have a victory in the State Senate, the bill eventually did pass overwhelmingly in that body. That meant that everything was now focused on the PA State House and making sure the vote never happened.

Here is an "urgent" email from the PAFA from October 15th, where they try to stop the bill from being voted on in the Senate:

-----Original Message-----

From: amy maseychik [<mailto:amaseychik@aol.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 1:53 PM

To: amaseychik@aol.com

Subject: PAFA URGENT!!! HB1750...

Attention All PAFA Members:

Senators are trying to vote on HB1750 today!

Please contact your Senators IMMEDIATELY to STOP this action!

Thank you in advance.

PAFA Executive Board

On October 16, 2014, the PAFA released another Word file (**Exhibit III**) a day after the Senate successfully voted on HB 1750.

The document contained the following passage:

Having watched the entire proceedings on PCN last night, what I found most disappointing was the representation by our legislative "supporters" and their feeble attempts to present their opposition to the bill as amended and dissuade the vote to pass the bill, thereby sending it back to the house for ratification. The proponents of the bill did a superb job of not only stating their view as to why pigeon shooting is not considered a sport or hunting activity, but clearly animal abuse with all its ugliness.

On Monday, October 20, 2014 the bill will come up for a final vote and ratification. Today and tomorrow will be our last opportunity to contact members of the PA House of Representatives to voice your opposition to the passage of this bill.

We urge you and any sportsman you know to contact their representative and ask them to vote no on Monday.

[HOUSE BILL 1750](#)

[PA House of Representatives](#)

Allan Roberts, VP PAFA
PAFA Executive Board

What is striking about the PAFA statement is that they say that October 16 and 17 were "... our last opportunity to contact members of the PA House of Representatives to voice your opposition to the passage of this bill."

It was on October 17th, the day they themselves called their very last opportunity to stop HB 1750 from being voted on in the House, that the FVF wrote checks totaling \$20,000 in campaign donations, which included \$3,000 given to Mr. Turzai.

The PAFA's statement regarding the critical nature of October 17th, along with their PAC making massive campaign donations on that day, reveals that the only logical reason they made those donations was as their last ditch effort to stop HB 1750 from being voted on.

In addition, the anger they expressed at what happened with the Senate vote showed that they needed to take extreme measures to ensure that the same thing did not happen in the House. That is why on October 17th they spent half of their entire PAC account in campaign donations. For them, it was money well spent.

The following email was sent by the PAFA on October 20th, 2014:

-----Original Message-----

From: paflayersassociation@aol.com [<mailto:paflayersassociation@aol.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2014 7:39 PM

Subject: Attention: HB1750

To All PAFA Members:

The House Bill 1750 has been killed.

A Big Thank You for all your support!!

PAFA Executive Board

IV. Conclusion

Mr. Turzai stated he would let legislation to ban pigeon shoots be heard, but three days before that was to happen he received a substantial donation from a PAC whose sole purpose is to defend pigeon shooting. Rep. Turzai then used his power to make sure the bill would not be voted on. All this leads to what can only be called cause and effect - a campaign donation to kill legislation.

Section §1103 (c) of the Public Official and Employee Ethics Act states the following:

§ 1103. Restricted activities

(c) Accepting improper influence.--No public official, public employee or nominee or candidate for public office shall solicit or accept anything of monetary value, including a gift, loan, political contribution, reward or promise of future employment, based on any understanding of that public official, public employee or nominee that the vote, official action or judgment of the public official or public employee or nominee or candidate for public office would be influenced thereby.

We believe the evidence we have provided proves that there was undue influence - a large campaign donation - and that Mr. Turzai acted because of it. That means he violated the law.