



Steve Buehrer

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June 11, 2010

Mr. Peter Tobin
Superintendent
Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigations
1560 State Route 56 SW
London, Ohio 43140

Dear Mr. Tobin:

I appreciate all that you have done as chairman of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Mission Review Task Force. This job has not been an easy one. However, as the task force approaches its wrap up phase, I write to express to you and the members my concerns about our current path.

First, I am disappointed to hear that a deeply divided panel voted at the last meeting to remove many substantive and thoughtful recommendations for the proposed report. Although I take no personal position on any of these recommendations individually, I believe they were all consistent with the mission of this task force. At the end of the day, it is my view that the scope of recommendations should be broad and diverse. The goal in crafting this task force was to create a broad stakeholder group who would give an extensive menu of recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor for how law enforcement in Ohio could be delivered within existing fiscal constraints. Excluding possible examples of duplicative or inefficient services is contrary to the simple mission of our task force.

In this light, it is my strongest hope that all of the members will recommit themselves to bringing forward more recommendations in the final days of our work. Although you have proposed to begin voting at the next meeting, I would hope that members will take the responsibility to bring fresh ideas forward up to the actual day when the task force will cease to exist. My own view is that the present draft report is too narrow and gives the General Assembly and Administration little to work with in crafting strategies for law enforcement going forward. Many people have put in a considerable amount of time, and I hope that this effort can be reflected in our final report.

In summary, although you have urged members to contribute additional recommendations, I hope you will continue this prodding and leave the door open for more recommendations up until the July first deadline. Furthermore, as the report is finalized I trust you and the other members will do everything in your power to ensure a broad report that reflects a range of issues and choices for future policy makers.

If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing you and the other members at our June 16th meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Buehrer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Steve Buehrer
State Senator
1st District

Cc: Members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Mission Review Task Force