

**WENDI THOMAS, MEMBER  
DEPUTY WHIP  
178<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

ROOM 153A, EAST WING  
P.O. BOX 202178  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2178  
PHONE: (717) 772-9926 • FAX: (717) 782-2982

1038 SECOND STREET PIKE, SUITE 101  
RICHBORO, PA 18954  
PHONE: (215) 364-3414 • FAX: (215) 364-8626

123 WEST BRIDGE STREET  
NEW HOPE, PA 18938  
PHONE: (215) 862-1940 • FAX: (215) 862-1943



**House of Representatives**  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

**COMMITTEES**  
AGING & OLDER ADULT SERVICES  
CHILDREN & YOUTH, *Committee Secretary*  
INSURANCE  
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, *Committee Secretary*

**APPOINTMENT**  
PA COMMISSION FOR THE  
US SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

**SPECIAL INTERESTS**  
MENTAL HEALTH CAUCUS, CHAIR  
DELAWARE CANAL CAUCUS, CHAIR  
ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE CAUCUS

WTHOMAS@PAHOUSEGOP.COM  
WWW.REPTHOMAS.COM  
FACEBOOK.COM/REPTHOMAS

April 13, 2021

Honorable James Kenney  
Mayor of Philadelphia  
City Hall, Office 215  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Mayor Kenney,

It has come to my attention that Bucks County residents seeking a refund on the Philadelphia wage tax are being asked to provide a letter from their employer stating that the employee was required to work remotely in order to qualify for the refund.

This was confirmed when visiting <https://www.phila.gov/departments/department-of-revenue/our-services/tax-services/non-resident-covid-ez-refund-petition/>, where it states:

*This online refund request must include:*

- Your W-2, AND
- A letter from your employer, on company letterhead, stating the time period or dates you were required to work remotely.

*We will not accept your refund request if you fail to upload these documents.*

Originally issued May 4, 2020 and updated as recently as March 2, 2021, below you will find Governor Wolf's guidance to Pennsylvania businesses found at <https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/business-guidance/#ForWorkers> :

*"You play a critical role in protecting your workers, customers, suppliers, and the general public."*

*"Telework must continue unless impossible. All businesses with in-person operations should follow the building and business safety guidelines issued by the PA Secretary of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)."*

Additionally, Philadelphia has consistently followed stricter regulations than the rest of the state. In the news story linked below, you even acknowledge that Philadelphia is its own county with its own responsibilities.

<https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/philadelphia-sets-april-30-as-date-to-possibly-ease-some-coronavirus-restrictions/2752638/>

Given the state mandate to work remotely UNLESS impossible up until April 1, 2021 (and is STILL strongly encouraged by Governor Wolf according to his most recent guidance to businesses) the requirement to provide an employer letter is burdensome and unnecessary. At a time of economic insecurity for many Pennsylvanians, Bucks County residents and their home governments are entitled to this refund which will help local fire and police entities hard hit by the pandemic.

I am writing you today to respectfully request that the city of Philadelphia remove this unnecessary requirement for those applying for the city wage tax refund. I appreciate your consideration and attention to this matter.

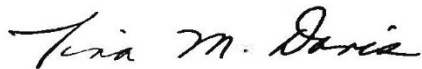
Sincerely,



Rep. Wendi J. Thomas, 178<sup>th</sup> District



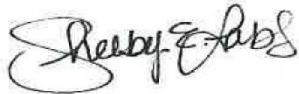
Rep. Frank Farry, 142<sup>nd</sup> District



Rep. Tina Davis, 141<sup>st</sup> District



Rep. John T. Galloway, 140 District



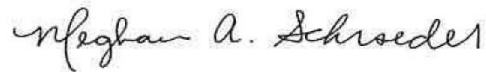
Rep. Shelby Labs, 143<sup>rd</sup> District



Rep. Todd Polinchock, 144th District



Rep. Kathleen Tomlinson, 18<sup>th</sup> District



Rep. Meghan Schroeder, 29<sup>th</sup> District



Rep. Craig Staats, 145<sup>th</sup> District



Rep. Perry Warren, 31<sup>st</sup> District