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Title: *PA Rural Gay Caucus Letter*

Date: April 2, 1977

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

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THE PENNSYLVANIA RURAL GAY CAUCUS

P. O. BOX 1505

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

The Honorable Joseph Dadonna,
Mayor of Allentown
And Members of City Council
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18102

April 2, 1977

Dear persons:

This is to inform you that the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus at its meeting in Lancaster on March 5th voted support of the gay community of Allentown and LE-HI-HO, its representative organization, in seeking to have the words, "sexual or affectional preference" added to the protective clauses of the Human Relations Ordinance of Allentown. On April 2nd, meeting in Reading, the Caucus reaffirmed this support and authorized me to voice their support. The Caucus also delegated two observers to attend the Council meeting on Wednesday, April 6th, and to report the actions of City Council, to determine if further action is required of the Caucus.

We urge the adoption of the above clause because it acts as an aid and buttress of that which we who are involved in Gay Liberation are trying to accomplish - namely to release the human energy that is wasted in having to maintain a front of heterosexuality through fear of losing one's job, one's home, one's social standing. Those fears are the real condition imposed by hostile parts of society which seek not only to condemn the homosexual orientation, but to repress its every manifestation without regard to human kindness, human dignity, or human rights. The myths - that gay people must suffer guilt, and loneliness, and frustration as the best we are capable of in our not-quite-human lives, that we conduct only the most lascivious and illicit sexual affairs (without love), that we recruit among unsuspecting children and adults - are forever put away.

We are born free of condemnation. We have learned through self-knowledge that we are possessed of dignity, honor, and the right to pursue happiness without harm to the life, limb, or property of others, and we are dedicated to the fulfillment of our potential as human beings who happen to be gay.

We have learned that truth and justice favor our cause. We ask that you favor truth and justice.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph W. Burns

Joseph W. Burns
co-chair with Mary Nancarrow
of the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus

By direction of the Caucus 4-2-77