

Borough of Spring Grove
Resolution No. 4-2010

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING
FORCED LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MERGERS AND CONSOLIDATIONS**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Spring Grove, Pennsylvania, United States is a municipality with a population of approximately 2,200 residents and more than 50 businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Spring Grove, a full-service government, provides quality and essential services to residents that only a municipality can offer; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Spring Grove government is a full-service government which includes a Public Works Department, a Wastewater Treatment Department, Police coverage through the Southwestern Regional Police Department, a Zoning and Codes Enforcement Department, an Emergency Management Department, a Fire Department with more than 40 volunteers, a Recreation Department, a Mayor, a seven-member Council, a Borough Manager, Administrative Assistant and Parking Enforcement Officer, a Zoning Hearing Board, a Planning Commission, a Shade Tree Commission and a Codes Appeal Board; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Spring Grove provides governmental services similar to most of the other townships, cities, and boroughs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the citizens and businesses of these municipalities take great pride in living in a community that is self-sufficient and provides governmental services that are beneficial on a personal level; and

WHEREAS, HB 2431 (*Session of 2010*) would, if adopted, change the Pennsylvania Constitution and establish the county as the basic level of local government in Pennsylvania, with municipalities existing only under the jurisdiction of the county and having only those duties and responsibilities as determined by the county; and

WHEREAS, SB 1357 (*Session of 2010*) would, if adopted, establish an unelected, statewide boundary commission to review and make recommendations to the General Assembly for the merger, consolidation, or annexation of municipalities; and

WHEREAS, both bills would eliminate many current townships, cities, and boroughs; and

WHEREAS, both bills would jeopardize the right of Pennsylvania's citizens to live in a society that was founded on representative democratic principles; and

WHEREAS, the current form of local government allows local residents to hold local elected officials accountable; and

WHEREAS, the current form of local government allows for a timely response to local crime, safety, fire, and codes enforcement issues; and

WHEREAS, eliminating local governments will lead to larger, more corrupt government to preside over a larger constituency of citizens; and

WHEREAS, these two bills will bail out the large cities that have improperly spent their funds over the last several decades while punishing the smaller communities that have spent frugally and have strived to make intelligent fiscal decisions while spreading limited resources in a manner that would most benefit the community; and

WHEREAS, the borough supports the voluntary merger or consolidation of local governments if the process is initiated at the local level and it has the support of the majority of the residents of all affected municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs opposes HB 2431 and SB 1357.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Borough of Spring Grove opposes any measure, initiative, or plan that mandates the forced merger, consolidation or annexation of local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly be urged to oppose House Bill 2431 and Senate Bill 1357, and any similar kind of legislation that has been, or may be introduced in the future to mandate forced consolidation, merger or annexation of local governments in Pennsylvania; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to our State Senator, State Representative, and the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs.

RESOLVED this 2nd day of August 2010

ATTEST:

SPRING GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL:

Andrew N. Shaffer, Borough Manager

Richard P. Legore, Council President

BOROUGH SEAL

I approve the within Resolution.

Dolores J. Aumen, Mayor