

# Government of The Government, by The Government And For The Government

*Tom Maurer*

**Government has decided that we, the public, are uninformed, incompetent, irresponsible, and need to be protected from ourselves.**

If you don't believe this, look at the plethora of existing and proposed laws and regulations that have been passed under the guise of the "public welfare". However, in reality, the objective is control or to advance self-serving interests, not "public welfare". These laws regulate what we eat and from whom we may buy it, what medical care is appropriate and from whom we can receive it, what we can do on our property, what safety contraptions we must use, etc. Some prohibit us from having chickens in our backyard or hanging clothes on a clothesline. Is there anything "greener" than a clothesline?

There is no area in our lives that is exempt from government intrusion and interference. It's amazing that any of us survived to adulthood. We rode in the back of pickup trucks, drank out of the hose or each other's soda bottles, had pocket knives and used other tools, operated a lawnmower, rode our bikes without padding or helmets, played sports without equipment that rendered us partially immobile, and a variety of other things that are now regulated or illegal. It would be funny if it weren't so serious. Our Constitution was not drafted to give us rights. Its purpose was to protect us from government by precisely defining what government could and couldn't do. But we have become lazy. We have allowed government to steal our rights because it was easy to let government "take care of us". The problem is that we now have an ever-increasing percentage of the population who believe that government has the duty to take care of us. For the last 100 years, this attitude has developed and emboldened government to assert more and more control over every part of our lives. If we let this continue, we will lose control of what we eat, how we approach our health and wellness, and virtually all our inalienable rights. How do we take back control? First, we need to let our "representatives" know that their role is not to take care of us. We don't want or need a nanny state. We just need them to protect and defend the Constitutions which every one of them swore to do when they took their oath of office. We need to vote every one out who ignores that oath. Second, we need to pay attention and oppose inappropriate legislation. A perfect example is Act 106.

It is alleged that this Act unifies and coordinates a variety of overlapping and confusing Pennsylvania "public health" legislation. Although the party line is that this was the result of six years of work, the quality of the finished product looks more like something cobbled together by a couple low-level staffers over a three-martini lunch. If literally enforced, as set up by the resulting regulations, it would eliminate most local farmers' markets. We are supposed to take comfort in the State's assurances that they will exercise restraint when enforcing the regulations. I'm sure that relieves your concerns. Maybe the best way would be to push legislation similar to what Sedgwick, Maine passed, called their Local Food and Self-Governance ordinance. It exempts direct farm sales from Federal and State licensing and inspection. While that legislation needs to be expanded to allow sales to stores and restaurants, it's the right idea. And there's no reason why similar legislation covering other issues like medical care, couldn't be passed. The main issue is that if we continue with our current path of indifference, we will soon lose what few rights we have left. It's easy to complain. Doing something to cause a change involves dedication and commitment. Are we part of the problem or part of the solution?