### I. INTRODUCTION

This Grand Jury conducted an extensive investigation into a sophisticated scam to steal Pennsylvania tax credits. We learned that the Commonwealth operates several programs designed to encourage economic development by providing tax credits to certain new businesses. But — enabled by insufficient government oversight — dishonest business people were able to exploit the system to the tune of millions of taxpayer dollars.

We discovered twenty different shell companies that were set up, by the same two individuals, so as to appear to be conducting research and development. In reality, the companies were nothing but paper and mail drops. They had no actual employees, offices, products, or customers. Yet they qualified for over \$10 million dollars of tax credits under the Pennsylvania Research and Development (R&D) and Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ) programs. These tax credits, we discovered, do not simply reduce the tax liability of the qualifying businesses; they can also be legally *sold* to other companies, even if those companies would not qualify for the credits themselves.

The masterminds behind the operation were able to sell over \$6 million dollars' worth of those tax credits before the scam was uncovered. That money was ultimately deposited into bank accounts in Hong Kong. It was not used to bolster Pennsylvania's economy; instead, it reduced Pennsylvania tax revenues when the companies who legally purchased the credits applied them against their own tax liability. We reviewed evidence and it is anticipated that a presentment will be issued in the future recommending that criminal charges be filed against those who created the sham businesses in order to generate the undeserved credits.

Beyond criminal charges, we also focused on the systemic deficiencies in the administration of both the R&D and KIZ tax credit programs that enabled the massive deception

to go undetected for years, and that must be addressed in order to prevent such fraud in the future. We heard testimony and obtained evidence from numerous witnesses, including members of law enforcement, tax credit brokers, KIZ coordinators and past and present staff members from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue (DOR). The evidence demonstrated that changes must be made so that the true purpose of these programs can be realized. While we were pleased to learn through our investigation that some changes have recently been implemented, we think further steps should be taken to protect the investments of Pennsylvania taxpayers.

We are recommending that the Commonwealth implement the following changes: 1) as in other Pennsylvania tax credit programs, applicants for R&D and KIZ credits should be subject to audit by independent certified accountants; 2) tax credit applications should be verified through such means as in-person interviews, photographic submissions, receipts and other financial records; 3) laws governing the R&D and KIZ tax credit programs should be amended to provide the agencies sufficient time to put teeth into the review process; 4) local "KIZ coordinators" should be trained in their proper role and required to make site visits to ensure that applicants are operating as required by the program, and such site visits should also be required prior to awarding R&D credits; 5) tax brokers, who play an integral role in the tax credit market by matching buyers and sellers, should be required to be licensed, to receive training, and to certify that they will report any suspicious activity rather than participate in it, on pain of perjury, prosecution, or debarment; and 6) that awardees be required to provide an annual breakdown of how the tax credit was used and/or alternatively, if sold, how the funds from such sale were used, and that such information be provided in making future applications.

#### II. PENNSYLVANIA TAX CREDITS

Each year the Commonwealth makes numerous types of tax credits available to qualified taxpayers in Pennsylvania in order to try to help stimulate the local economy, generate new jobs, attract and grow businesses, and increase the underlying tax base. Tax credit programs are not unique to Pennsylvania. The federal government and numerous other states offer tax credit incentive programs as well.

Tax credit programs are designed to incentivize taxpayers (companies or individuals) to participate in certain industries, practices and/or activities by reducing the taxpayer's tax liability for engaging in that particular qualifying work. While the Commonwealth does not pay the taxpayer in cash for engaging in such work, the Commonwealth rewards the taxpayer by giving it a credit against its state tax liability. Thus, the revenue generated for the Commonwealth through its taxing system is reduced at least in the short term. Although they cost millions of dollars in tax revenue, tax credit programs are viewed as beneficial to Pennsylvania's economy because they draw new businesses and enterprises into the community, which should increase the tax revenues and the local economy in the long term. These programs are a definitive and calculated trade-off made by the Commonwealth in hopes of providing a greater long term economic benefit to its citizens.

Importantly, with certain tax credit programs there is an additional benefit to the applicant because the credits are actually "transferrable" or "sellable" by the awardee to third parties in exchange for money. Thus, these types of credits are commodities which can lawfully be sold to third parties at a discounted price, thereby providing the original companies with an almost immediate infusion of cash to put back into the business. Theoretically, this is especially beneficial for newer companies trying to get off the ground or obtain stability. We learned that there are at

least six sellable tax credit programs offered by the Commonwealth annually. Three of the six tax credit programs require independent certified public accountants to audit the information provided with credit applications before credits can be awarded, but the R&D and KIZ programs do not require any such review.

The two different Pennsylvania tax credit programs central to the Grand Jury's investigation are: 1) the R&D tax credit program, and 2) the KIZ tax credit program. Importantly, a qualifying taxpayer can apply for and be awarded both types at the same time. All of the companies at issue in our investigation were receiving R&D credits and many of them were receiving KIZ credits as well.

Between the two programs, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania sets aside a total of \$70 million dollars in annual tax revenue which the Commonwealth willingly foregoes in hopes of spurring greater long term economic development within its borders.

As noted above, both the R&D and KIZ tax credit programs share the same special benefit: these two particular tax credits are "transferable" or "sellable" to third parties in exchange for actual money. Therefore, it can be extremely lucrative to be awarded these types of tax credits as any amount of the credits which are not used against a taxpayer's state tax liability can be sold for cash. Frequently, tax credit "brokers" handle the sale of the credits for both the sellers and the buyers. The brokers receive a sizable commission for advising tax credit applicants, advocating to the departments for credits to be granted, and finding purchasers willing to pay. But these brokers receive no training from the state, nor are they required to be licensed or to report any misconduct they may observe in their dealings.

#### III: THE R&D TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

The R&D credit program was adopted in Pennsylvania in 1997 and has been in effect ever since. The governing statutes require DOR to administer the award of tax credits under this program. Between 2003 and 2017, Pennsylvania set aside \$618 million in tax credits for the R&D credit program. Since 2011, the Commonwealth has been allocating \$55 million in R&D tax credits to qualifying applicants annually; of that sum, \$11 million dollars in credit has also been allotted each year specifically for qualifying small businesses. "Small businesses" are defined as companies that have assets of less than \$5 million. Small businesses are entitled to 20% tax credits rather than the 10% for large businesses.\(^1\) All of the 20 fraudulent companies at issue in our investigation were designated as small businesses on their credit applications as a means of enabling them to qualify for a larger tax credit.

The evidence revealed that a single qualifying applicant may be awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in R&D tax credits annually. The calculation is based on how R&D expenditures are reported on the application. However, the amount of credits awarded must be prorated when there are more "qualified" applicants than credit dollars available — which means legitimate applicants received fewer credits than they should have because of the dollars diverted to fraudulent companies.

Over the years, the Pennsylvania R&D tax credit program has become more popular. It was estimated that in 2013, the program received 747 applications, almost all of which (717) were

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 72 P.S. 8703-B (b)(2) allows a taxpayer designated as a "small business" that incurs Pennsylvania qualified R&D expenses to apply for R&D tax credits by the September 15 deadline. The statute provides that a "small business" taxpayer shall receive a credit for the taxable year in the amount of 20% of the excess of its total Pennsylvania qualified R&D expense for the taxable year over the taxpayer's Pennsylvania base amount, but, a large company would only qualify for 10% of same.

approved. By 2017, the program had received 1344 applications, almost all of which (1288) were approved.

This particular tax credit is available to businesses and/or individuals performing qualified research and development and making related expenditures in Pennsylvania. At all times material to this investigation, in order to qualify for the R&D tax credit in Pennsylvania, applicants were required to submit Form REV-545 R&D, certifying that the taxpayer: 1) was subject to either Personal Income Tax or Corporate Net Income Tax exposure; 2) incurred expenditures for qualified research and development conducted within Pennsylvania; 3) was in compliance with the Commonwealth's tax laws and regulations as determined by the Department of Revenue; and 4) incurred at least two years of prior Pennsylvania R&D expenditures.

The application further required applicants to provide company-specific state and federal identifiers. Moreover, the application required applicants to submit federal 6765 forms and/or proforma 6765 forms and, in the case of small businesses, a balance sheet with a breakdown articulating the qualified Pennsylvania R&D expenditures.<sup>2</sup> Finally, the application required a corporate officer to sign a verification at the bottom of the first page asserting: "[u]nder penalty of perjury, I declare I have examined this return, including any accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete." A copy of an application is attached to this report as Exhibit "A."

An application to apply for R&D tax credits from DOR is due by September 15<sup>th</sup>. DOR only has until December 15<sup>th</sup> of that same year to review all of the applications it receives, identify

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> We learned that the *pro forma 6765* form is a document generated by the applicants asserting what their expenditures would have been had they sought federal R&D tax credits.

the unqualified applicants, identify legitimate applicants, investigate any irregularities of potentially legitimate applicants and award the credits.

We learned that DOR determined who qualified for the credits by relying on the uncorroborated documentation submitted in and with the application. DOR staff members were trained on how to process applications prior to reviewing them. When the applications were received at DOR, a staff member would input the information into the computer system. Other team members within DOR would then sift through each application and compare the information contained in the form against the documents supplied by the applicants, including the balance sheet, the 6765 forms and/or *pro forma* 6765 forms, and Pennsylvania tax returns, to make sure that all the information matched. If so, nothing more was done, and the application for the tax credit would be approved.

DOR staff members also received training on when to reject an application. Staff were advised to reject an application if 1) the applicant did not provide expenditures from prior years, 2) the company was no longer in business, or 3) the application was submitted after September 15<sup>th</sup>. We learned that staff members would contact applicants when pertinent information was missing or unclear to give them an opportunity to correct the deficiency. If the applicant provided the additional information, the credits would be awarded. Unfortunately, we also observed instances in which applications were granted even when they did not meet even this relatively lax standard — when, for example, unsigned applications were accepted and approved. Based on the testimony we heard and the evidence we saw, it appeared that DOR staff were working diligently to approve as many applicants as possible, even though this could work to the detriment of legitimate applicants.

We learned that there were no requirements that photographic identification be supplied, that in-person interviews or site visits be conducted, or that applicants submit expenditure receipts, account statements or actual day-to-day financial records beyond the applicant's state tax returns and the federal 6765 forms or *pro forma* 6765 forms. Staff members of DOR who reviewed the applications relied almost exclusively, if not exclusively, on the information set forth by the applicant in the application as being true and correct.

#### IV. THE KIZ TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

In 2003, the KIZ tax credit program was designed to attract new companies engaged in specified industries to move into or settle in specified geographic areas in Pennsylvania. There are 29 designated KIZ regions in the state. The statute allots \$15 million in tax credits annually for this program. A percentage is not specifically carved out for small businesses with this program as it is with the R&D program.

Where the R&D credit program focuses on expenditures, the KIZ program focuses on the applicant's gross revenues from KIZ-related activities. Specifically, a KIZ credit applicant may be awarded a tax credit equal to 50% of the increase in its gross revenues in the immediately preceding taxable year attributable to its activities in the zone, over the company's gross revenues in the second preceding taxable year attributable to its activities in the zone.

The credits max out at \$100,000 a year, and they are prorated among applicants if total claims exceed the amount available in the pool. Prorating is done so that all of the seemingly qualified applicants receive at least some of the credits for which they apply. We observed instances where KIZ credit awards were prorated because the program was overextended beyond the \$15 million it was allotted. Thus there were times between 2012 and 2017 where legitimate applicants received less in credits because sham companies were being approved for credits.

Essentially, the purpose of the KIZ Tax Credit Program is to encourage young for-profit companies to engage in certain industries in a designated location within the Commonwealth. Specifically, we learned that in order to be awarded this type of tax credit, the applicant must be a for-profit business entity engaged in one of the following fields: advanced materials, diversified manufacturing, business services, life sciences or high technology. In addition, the business must have been in operation less than eight years.

The designated zones were created near the Commonwealth's colleges and universities to align academic resources with the private sector workforce and spur innovation statewide. One of the goals of this specific incentive program is to try to keep graduates of local colleges and universities working in that geographic area after graduation.

KIZ applicants are required to submit forms articulating why they qualify for the credit. They must also supply their federal form 1120 from the past two years to verify the alleged increase in gross revenue. Prior to 2017, applicants were also required to submit relevant past Pennsylvania tax returns. As of 2017, applicants were instead required to attach their "Welcome to Pennsylvania" letter issued by DOR, authorizing the company to do business in the Commonwealth. Also required was a certification from a "KIZ coordinator" verifying that the company was in fact located within the zone. The Grand Jury learned that the staff members of DCED who review the tax credit applications largely assume that the information submitted by the applicant is true and correct. DCED has only 90 days from September 15th, the close of the application acceptance date, to review all of the applications it receives. The KIZ credits are awarded on December 15th. A KIZ credit application from one of the target companies from our investigation has been attached as Exhibit "B." The applications do not require photographic identification, account statements, or in-person interviews which could help deter fraud.

Similar to the R&D Program, once these credits are awarded to an applicant, the KIZ credit must first be applied to the company's own Pennsylvania tax liability (personal income tax or corporate net income tax). Any unused credits may be applied against the company's tax liability for up to five years from the date that the credit was issued. Alternatively, the credit may be sold or reassigned to another taxpayer. In order to sell these credits, the awardee and the third party buyer must file the requisite paperwork with DCED and seek its permission for the transfer.

We learned that KIZ coordinators are assigned for each of the designated zones. The coordinators are supposed to file certifications to verify that the companies applying for KIZ tax credits are in fact located within their designated KIZ area. Yet, the individuals who are designated as the KIZ coordinators are not interviewed by, employed by, or in any way chosen by representatives of DCED to do the job. Rather, we learned that individuals employed by the local economic development entities representing the KIZ regions, and often hired for another job entirely, get assigned the task of acting as a coordinator too. DCED has policies and procedures available that are supposed to help coordinators fulfill their obligations.

A witness testified that the coordinators are supposed to communicate with the applicant companies, obtain copies of their leases, ensure that metric reports are filed by the companies, and document files with proof that the companies are working in the zone. We heard conflicting testimony regarding whether or not site visits are required before the coordinators sign the certification confirming that the company is actually located within the zone.

When the KIZ tax credit program was first implemented, money was set aside by the Commonwealth to be used by the regional entities helping to administer the KIZ program locally. Some of that funding helped pay the costs of KIZ coordinators' services. However, multiple

witnesses testified that the Commonwealth stopped contributing to the costs associated with the local KIZ engagement programs and coordinators several years ago. The Grand Jury also heard from multiple witnesses that the coordinators just simply did not understand the magnitude of their role in certifying that a KIZ company was in fact where it claimed to be located as a means of protecting against fraud and waste. Rather, it was something that was routinely seen by the coordinators as being less important than the other responsibilities of their jobs.

We also heard from a witness who explained that DCED's KIZ credit application has been flawed since the time it was adapted to an electronic format. The witness explained that DCED used a "one size fits all" electronic application for every program it oversaw. KIZ applicants were required to answer every question on the application, even when questions were not relevant to that particular program. The poor application format made it more difficult to identify questionable applications. We learned that though DCED was aware of the problem, it went unaddressed due to funding constraints.

Moreover, we also heard evidence that applications were not compared with tax information maintained by DOR because there were strict rules prohibiting DOR from sharing it with DCED. We learned that since this scheme came to light, DOR has agreed to perform certain checks at DCED's request.

#### V. THE TAX CREDIT SCAM

Given the operation of the R&D and KIZ tax credit systems, the fraud we discovered should not, perhaps, be entirely surprising. Our investigation was quite extensive. We obtained thousands of documents comprising 637 exhibits, and heard from numerous witnesses both in and out of government.

The perpetrators were a husband-and-wife team who were originally from Hong Kong, and who returned there once the scheme had been set in motion. The evidence established that Wing Tat Chiu (a.k.a "Chris Chiu" or "Christopher Wing-Tat Chiu"), and Ivy Hiu-Ying Li (a.k.a. "Ivy Li" and/or "Hiu Yin Li") came from Hong Kong to the United States to study at Michigan State University (MSU) in the late 1990s. Wing Tat Chiu received his Doctorate of Philosophy from MSU in the fall of 1999. Ivy Li obtained her Master's Degree from MSU in the summer semester of 2000. Chiu and Li married in 2000 and remained in the United States thereafter. They became naturalized United States citizens.

Following their graduation, they moved to Pennsylvania and settled in Bucks County. The couple started two Pennsylvania companies: Accu Measurement & Testing, Inc., (AMT) in January of 2004 and EdigitalDataCenter, Inc., (Edigital) in December 2009. Both companies applied for, and were awarded, R&D and KIZ tax credits. Initially, it appears that the applications may have been legitimate. By 2012, however, the couple had apparently realized that they could make money more easily by securing credits illegitimately. Both companies applied for and obtained tax credits between 2012 and 2017. But we were unable to find any evidence suggesting either company actually qualified for those credits. In fact, there was absolutely no evidence of legitimate revenue or expenditures for either company during those years.

We also heard evidence establishing that the couple created 18 other sham entities to obtain more sellable tax credits. The evidence indicates that the duo created numerous false identities to be the faces of the other 18 shell companies in order to further perpetrate their fraud. They tried to continue their scam through 2018 and only stopped because DOR and DCED finally became aware of the fraud and would not permit the additional credits to be transferred.

Most of the time, the scam was perpetrated from afar; Chiu and Li weren't even in the country. The evidence revealed that Chiu went back to Hong Kong in December 2012 and he remained there until June 2016, when he returned to the United States for roughly two months. He traveled back to Hong Kong on August 18, 2016, and he has not returned to the United States since. Li also went back to Hong Kong in December 2012 and remained there until early October 2015, when she returned to the United States for sixteen days. She returned to Hong Kong in late October 2015 and has not returned to the United States since.

By using fake companies and false identities, Chiu and Li applied for and were awarded \$10,645,435 worth of tax credits between 2012 and 2017. The 20 companies did not meet the requisite qualifications to be awarded any of those credits. The evidence revealed that none of the sham companies had any expenditures whatsoever during those years, and the only revenue traced to the companies were the proceeds obtained from selling their tax credits. Yet, during 2012-2017, 62 R&D tax credit applications were submitted to DOR on behalf of those companies and \$8,127,621 in sellable R&D tax credits were awarded to them in return. During that same time period, they also submitted 27 fraudulent KIZ tax credit applications and were awarded \$2,517,814 in sellable KIZ tax credits.

There is absolutely no indication that verification methods such as site visits were conducted on any of the relevant companies before the credits were awarded. Had site visits been conducted, officials would have learned of the fraud much earlier, as not one of the companies was renting actual office space at its supposed location.

The evidence indicated that Chiu and Li were able to sell \$6,365,777 of the \$10,645,435 in credits before their scheme was discovered and stopped. Attached hereto as Exhibit "C" is a breakdown of the credits awarded to the sham companies between 2012 and 2017 and the credits

that were transferred by them before the scam was uncovered. Tax credit brokers were vital to accomplish these sales, which were the essential piece enabling the conspirators to cash in on the system.

The brokers were eager, even if not illegal, participants in the process. We observed multiple instances where brokers engaged DCED and/or DOR staff to push the award of those tax credits as well as the sales of those credits even when red flags were apparent. We saw instances where brokers questioned transactions but never stopped to notify either DCED or DOR about their concerns or to alert them of any potential fraud – even when they were repeatedly directed to wire the proceeds of tax credit sales directly to offshore accounts in Hong Kong.

The couple regularly pressed brokers for the highest price possible for the sale of their credits, demanded quick payment upon the completion of the sales, and were actively looking for more Pennsylvania tax credit programs in order to expand their scheme. They were even intending to seek tax credits from New Jersey and were asking tax credit brokers for guidance on those programs.

#### VI. THE BROKER PROBLEM.

Tax credit brokers require no specialized training or licensing. They are totally unregulated. Yet they help coordinate massive transactions impacting the economy and community here in Pennsylvania.

We heard evidence that, because they are not required to certify the tax credit applications they help prepare, some brokers believe they have no obligation to make sure that the information contained in the applications is accurate. Such certifications are routinely required for similar professions, such as tax preparers, who must state under penalty of perjury that to the best of their knowledge and belief, the information provided is true and correct. Additionally, because they are

unregulated, tax credit brokers are under no professional obligation to report suspected fraudulent or suspicious behavior.

The Grand Jurors reviewed numerous email conversations between various tax credit brokers and the subjects of this investigation. Among those emails were exchanges in which fraudulent companies referred brokers to other fraudulent companies (all actually operated by Chiu and Li) to sell their credits as well. In a few instances, after the introduction was done, multiple companies would send a group email to the brokers itemizing the hundreds of thousands of dollars of credits available for the broker to sell. When questioned by the brokers about how they were all connected, the response was that they were an "angel network," "co-op," or "joint venture." In multiple instances, the bogus companies asked that proceeds be wired to Hong Kong bank accounts and it was done without hesitation.

Never once through the course of this investigation was evidence found that any of the brokers notified DCED or DOR that large groups of otherwise seemingly unrelated companies were asking for the proceeds from the sales of their Pennsylvania tax credits to be sent to Hong Kong. In fact the converse occurred. Through multiple emails it was revealed that brokers would push the staff at DCED and DOR to approve the various credit applications and transfers.

In one email string from July 2017, two tax brokers were trying to coordinate a transfer of hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax credits for six of the sham entities as a group. One broker wrote that "[...] Something is up with this guy and I am going on record saying we should cease doing business with them..." Another email between the two brokers was prompted in October 2017 because Chiu and Li's representatives had not been in communication with the brokers about two sales which were held up due to compliance issues. One broker wrote: "I feel like he [Daniel Presley] took four of the six sales and him and John Wayne and Joe Blow and Elvis Presley blew

town." The other responded: "LOL, with Henry Ford (one of the subjects of this investigation) was the driver." Shortly thereafter, these brokers contacted DCED staff trying to push through the transfer of the outstanding credits – without ever mentioning their concerns that the applications were illicit. At least one of those two credit transfers was denied by the state; however, the emails established that the same brokers contacted "Daniel Presley" again in 2018 and 2019 asking if there were any more credits to sell.

#### VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the evidence we have obtained and considered, we, the members of the Forty-Second Statewide Investigating Grand Jury, recommend the following legislative or procedural changes:

- A) Other Pennsylvania tax credit programs require an audit of applications by a certified public accountant. Independent audits would likely have prevented most or all of the million-dollar rip-offs we saw. They should be required for R&D and KIZ tax credits.
- B) In reviewing applications, the responsible agencies must do more than simply check the boxes to see whether the attachments match the form. DOR, for example, should interview applicants in person, face-to-face, to confirm that they are duly qualified. Applicants should be required to submit photographic identification along with receipts, account statements and financial records. IP addresses should be verified to ensure that applications are being submitted from businesses operating in Pennsylvania, not elsewhere.
- C) Regulators currently have only 90 days to review R&D and KIZ tax credit applications.

  That's not enough time for meaningful review, even if the agencies were disposed to

- conduct it. The law should be changed to increase that period so that real checks can be performed.
- D) Local KIZ coordinators are intended to be the eyes and ears on the ground to ensure that applicants are actually producing the economic activity the tax credits are designed to encourage. It appears that the coordinators do not understand their role or the significance of it. Coordinators should be required to conduct unscheduled site visits for each applicant. The certificate they submit should be amended to include a statement, under penalty of perjury, that they have gone to the site and verified that the company is in fact in existence and conducting business there. Unscheduled site visits should also be required for R&D tax credits.
- E) Tax credit brokers play an integral part in the system, but they are currently completely unregulated, and at least some apparently feel free to traffic in credits that are likely fraudulent. Brokers should be required to be licensed by Pennsylvania authorities in order to take part in tax credit transactions, to submit themselves to the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania courts, to undergo appropriate training, and to certify that they will not participate in improper transactions but will instead report irregularities. If they assist businesses in preparing tax credit applications, they should be required to sign the form with a declaration like those required of income tax preparers.
- F) Add an additional reporting requirement wherein the awardees will be required to submit to the relevant Department (either DOR or DCED) proof in the form of an annual breakdown of how the tax credit was used and/or alternatively, if the credit was sold, how the funds from such sale were used. This information breaking down how

the credit or funds were used must also be provided by the tax credit applicant on future tax credit applications seeking an award of credits.

Pennsylvania has made the policy choice to forego millions of dollars in tax revenue in order to stimulate its economy by awarding, and permitting the sale of, tax credits. If the state desires to continue on this path, it is crucial that it provide effective oversight. The ultimate victims of tax credit fraud are the law-abiding taxpayers of Pennsylvania. They should not have to make up the difference out of their own pockets.

# EXHIBIT "A"

rev-545 (CT) 01-17



# RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT 2017 APPLICATION

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGES 3 AND 4 BEFORE COMPLETING.

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				Hev-548, Page 1 of

# Breakdown of R&D expenditures by location

#### PART I

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Line 1	Pederal RAD Expense			<b>\$</b>	100%
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REV-846, PAGE 2014

## PENNSYLVANIA RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS PER ACT 7 of 1997, ACT 46 of 2003, ACT 116 of 2006 and Act 84 of 2016

You may now submit your Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credit Application via small to RA-RVPACORPRO@pa.gov. Please make sure to sign the application.

Required information: Completed and signed Page 1 of the 2016 Research and Development Tax Credit Application, completed Page 2 (all three sections) of REV-545 for each year that was not previously submitted with an application, federal Form 6765 or pro forma 6765, balance sheet for a small business and any applicable partnership information (percentage owned). If this is the first year you are submitting this application you must also include federal Form 6765, or a pro forma 6765, for all previous years, as well as Page 2 (all three sections) of REV-545 for each previous year. This information is required even if zero credit is claimed on Line 7 of the application. If you have filed a REV-545 in a prior year and there is a change in the amount of R&D expenditures (Line 3, a-d on Page 1 of REV-545) between this filling and the prior filling(s), provide a detailed explanation for each change, including supporting documentation.

NOTE: Verify the address on Page 1; it will be used to mail the award letter.

Prior year expenses must be four taxable years immediately preceding the taxable year in which the expense is incurred.

To apply for a PA R&D tax credit, a taxpayer must have qualified PA R&D expenses in the current tax year (Line 1) and in at least one preceding tax year (Line 3). NOTE: If PA R&D expenditures were incurred in a Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ), the taxpayer is not entitled to an R&D credit. If you have questions regarding combining a Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) tax credit and a Research and Development (R&D) tax credit, please call 717-772-3896.

For purposes of the PA R&D tax credit, a taxpayer is an entity subject to PA personal income tax or corporate net income tax.

Qualified R&D expenses include research expenses incurred for qualified research and development, as defined in Section 41 (b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, conducted within PA.

A 52-53 week filer whose year ends in the first week of January is considered a calendar year filer.

The department will notify applicants of PA R&D tax credit approvals by mailing award letters by Dec. 15th. A taxpayer may apply the approved credit against his/her PA personal income tax or corporate net income tax liability for the tax year in which the credit is approved. Any unused credit may be carried over for up to 15 succeeding taxable years. A taxpayer is not entitled to carry back, obtain a refund of or assign unused PA R&D tax credits awarded on or prior to Dec. 15, 2002.

Effective for awards made Dec. 15, 2003, and after, the taxpayer can apply to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, DCED, to sell or assign a PA R&D credit if there has been no claim of allowance filed within one year from the date the Department of Revenue approved the credit. Effective for awards made Dec. 15, 2009, and after, the taxpayer no longer has to wait one year before selling or essigning the credit. However, the taxpayer cannot sell or assign credit until the tax return covering the period including the Dec. 15 award date has been filed.

To apply to sell or assign RRO credit, visit www.dced.ps.gov or contact DCED at 717-214-5422 or 400 North St., 4th Fi, Keystone Building, Harrisburg PA 17120-0225. The purchaser or assignee must use the credit in the taxable year in which the purchase or assignment is made, and the credit cannot exceed 75 percent of the tax liability for the taxable year. The purchaser or assignee may not carry over, carry forward, carry back or obtain a refund of the credit.

Effective for awards made Dec. 15, 2006, and after, pass-through entities include limited liability companies and partnerships, therefore the credit can be transferred (passed-through) in writing to shareholders, members or partners in their proportionate share. The shareholder, member or partner must use the credit in the taxable year in which the transfer is made. Also effective for awards made Dec. 15, 2006, and after, the tentative credit on Line 7 is equal to 10 percent for large companies and 20 percent for small companies.

ENTITY TYPE: Complete the Entity Type on Page 1 by selecting one of the following categories:

# Individual, LLC, LLP, S corporation, G corporation, Sola proprietorship

If any tax years on Line 1 or Lines 3A, 3B, 3C or 3D of Page 1 represent a period of less than a full year, (other than for full year 52-53 week filers), the amount(a) of PA R&D expenses must be annualized.

Example: Tax year beginning Jan. 1, 2016, and ending July 31, 2016

Annualized amount = \$1,000,000 x 365\* = \$1,721,698

\*Use 366 for leap years that include 29 days in February.

If the taxpayer has two or more consecutive short periods that equal one full tax year, the short periods should be combined as a single tax year on line 1 and line 3, a-d on Page 1. Submit only one application.

### Instructions for Page 2, Breakdown of R&D Expenditures by Location

#### PART I, Page 2

Line 1: ·

Column 3 - List the Total Qualified Research Expenses from Section A, Section B or Section C of federal Form 6765.

#### Line 2: Location A

Column 1 - List PA-qualified R&D expenditures for that location.

Column 2 - List PA expenditures located in a KOZ.

Column 3 - List total PA expenditures (sum of Columns 1 and 2).

Column 4 - List percent of federal expense (Line 1, Column 3).

Lines 3 through 6 should be completed for additional PA locations (if more than five locations, make a clean copy of Page 2 to report additional locations).

#### Line 7:

Column 3 - List total Non-PA R&D expenditures.

Column 4 - List percent of federal expense (Line 1, Column 3).

#### Line 8:

Column 1 - Total PA-qualified R&D expenditures (this amount should match "Actual" amount on Line 1 of Page 1).

Column 3 -- Total R&D expenditures everywhere.

#### PART II

List address for each location (A, B, etc.).

#### PART III

List contact's name, employer's name, telephone number, fax number and small address for each location (A, B, etc.). Check the box if the research was performed by a third party.

NOTE: Complete Page 2 of the R&D application even if all expenses were incurred in PA.
Please carry all totals to the bottom of each column, Part I, Page 2 of the R&D application.

For information on this and other saleable restricted tax credit programs, please visit the Department of Revenue's Online Customer Service Center and/or review Corporation Tax Bulletin 2014-04, both accessible at www.revenue.pa.gov. Questions regarding completion of the application and the calculation of the credit may be directed to 717-705-6225, Option 5, then Option 2.

Do not include this application with the filing of your RCT-101, PA Corporate Net Income Tax Report.

CAUTION: You MUST email your REV-545 and any attachments to ra-rypacorpromps.gov.

CAUTION: When emailing, your application with any supporting documentation must be one document in PDF format to ensure timely and accurate processing.

If submitting more than one application, each application must be a separate attachment in your email.

#### CHECKLIST:

Before submitting your application, please raview the items below and put an X next to each item after you have verified it is complete. This will help to avoid a delay or denial of your application.

- Page 1 and Page 2 (all three parts) of the REV-545 have been filled out in their entirety.
   Included is a copy of federal Form 6765 or a pro forms copy of federal Form 6765 for each year listed with expenditures are listed under Line 1 and Line 3 on Page 1 of REV-545, \*
   Included is a completed Page 2 of REV-545 for each year listed with expenditures. Expenditures are listed under Line 1 and Line 3 on Page 1 of REV-545.\*
- 4. Included is a written explanation of the difference(s) in R&D expenditures between this year's expenditures and prior filings of REV-545, if applicable. Supporting documentation is also included.
- 5. If filing as a small business, included is a copy of the balance sheet showing total assets less than \$5 million at the beginning or end of the year.

\*NOTE: Only provide items 2 and 3 above for years that had changes in expanditures or years for which this information was not already provided in prior filings of REV-545. However, you must always provide this information for the base year expanditures listed on Line 1 of Page 1.

EXHIBIT "B"

# COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Single Application for Assistance

Application #:	Web App ID #:	E-Signature: Fred Rodriguez	Status: Legal Process Complete
I. PROFILES			

			The second secon
Name:		CEO:	
CEO Title:		Address:	New Holland Ave
City:	,	State:	PA
Zip:	17603	fein:	
NAICS Code:	5191	Contact Name:	
Type of organization:	For-Profit Corporation	Phone:	
Title:		SAP Vendor #:	
Fax:	n, 1	PA Revenue Tax Box No:	
Email:	3	Internet Access:	Yes No

Business Specific Information: Current # Full-time Jobs in Current # Full-time Jobs Worldwide: 0 Pennsylvania: Company Ownership: Type of Organization: Corporation Owned Woman. .....Owned Total Export Sales S: \$0.00 Ethnicity (Optional): Employee Training Investment as % Total Sales \$: . \$0.00 of Revenue: R&D Investment as % of 0.00% Revenue:

Name:	The state of the s	CEO:
CEO Title:		Address: New Holland Ave
City:	Lancaster	State: PA
Zip:	17603	FEIN:
NAICS Code:	5191.	UC#:

Contact Name: Email: Internet Access:	Yes No	Title: Phone: Fax:		
	Yes No			
Name:	***	Address:		
City:		State:		
Zip:		FEIN:	The state of the s	Telebia.
II. PROJECT SITE L	OCATIONS(S)			
Site Information: 1	1 . Photon, .		Townsel of the Control of the Contro	
Address:	New Hollar	d Ave City:	Lancaster	
State:	PA	Zip:	17603	
County:	Lancaster	Municipality:	Lancaster	City
PA House:	H096	PA Senate:	\$013	
US Congressional: Full-time Jobs Created	C016	Current Number of	Full-time Jobs:	
III. PROJECT INFO	RMATION			
fave you been talking w	vith anyone at the ag	ency about your project?	Yes No	<del></del>
f yes, please indicate wi	ho:		į	, <del>- 1, - 1, - 1, - 1, - 1, - 1, - 1, - </del>
roject Name (max 60 c	haracters):		KiZ 2014 Application	'n
s this project related to	another previously s	ibmitted project?	Yes No	
IV. TYPE OF ENTER	PRISE (Check app	ropriate box or boxes)		
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Advanced Technolo	<u>ئىم</u>	Export Service		
Agricultural Proces	-	Food Processing		•
Agricultural Produc		Government		
Authority	Γ	Healthcare		
Biotechnology/Lif	fe Sciences $\Gamma$	Hospitality		•
Business / Financia	l Services	Industrial	<u>.</u>	
Call Center	r	Manufacturing		

Child Care Center Mining Commercial Other (specify)
Commercial Other (specify)
Community Development Provider Professional Services
Computer & Clerical Operators Recycling
Defense Related Regional & National Headquarters
Economic Development Provider Research & Development
Educational Facility Retail
Emergency Responder Social Services Provider
Exempt Facility Tourism Promotion
Export Manufacturer Warehouse & Terminal
Please fill in when Other specified.
the second secon
V. HOW WILL THE ASSISTANCE BE USED? (Check appropriate box or boxes)
Assistance:  Acquisition  Infrastructure/Site Prep  Related Costs  Machinery & Equipment  Other  General Construction  Formunity  Community  Community Services  Community Services  Crime Prevention  Economic Development/Revitalization  Economic Development/Revitalization  Education  Education  Environmental  Export - Domestic (out of PA)  Tourism Promotion
Please fill in when Other specified. [ActivitiesOther]  VI. GAT DATA (if applicable)
Project Budget: Total Project Cost: Private Investment:

GAT Contact:	•	GAT Contact Emai	la ·	
GAT Project ID #:	•	Offer Letter Sent D	ate:	
GAT Summary:	1 7 - 1 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2			
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Job Info:				
Total Jobs Created:	<u> </u>	Current PA Employ	ment:	***
unding Project Assista	nce:			water construction become the construction of
Programs	Amount	Ŋ	ical Year	
VII, PROJECT BUDGET				
	·	**************************************		
nclude all sources of funds	and project costs. (	Including monies no	t financed with ager	icy funds.)
			•	44
Commenter of the second	from a set (1994 or 1) to the second	K12 Tax Credit Program	Total	
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operating Costs/Windlag Capita		\$100,000,000 \$100,000,000		•
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Working Capital Total		\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	
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Working Capital Total		\$100,000.00 \$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	
Working Capital Total	Budget Narrative	\$100,000.00 \$100,000.00 Budget Total:	\$100,000.00 \$100,000.00	***************************************
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Working Capital Total Apply for the KIZ tax credit	Budget Narrative	\$100,000.00 \$100,000.00 Budget Total:	\$100,000.00 \$100,000.00	
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Working Capital Total  Apply for the KIZ tax credit  VIII. BASIS OF COSTS  Appraisals	Budget Narrative to offset tax liabilitie Engineer Estimates	\$100,000.00 Signocooo Budget Total:	\$100,000.00 \$100,000.00	
Working Capital Total  Apply for the KIZ tax credit VIII. BASIS OF COSTS	Budget Narrative to offset tax liabilitie	\$100,000.00 \$100,000.00  Budget Total:	\$100,000.00 \$100,000.00	

Identified Problem

Apply for the KIZ tax credit to offset tax liabilities and stimulate economy. Apply for the KIZ tax credit to offset tax liabilities and stimulate economy. Apply for the KIZ tax credit to offset tax liabilities and stimulate economy.

Project Plan

Apply for the KIZ tax credit to offset tax liabilities and stimulate economy. Apply for the KIZ tax credit to offset tax liabilities and stimulate economy. Apply for the KIZ tax credit to offset tax liabilities and stimulate economy.

Use of DCED Funds

Apply for the KIZ tax credit to offset tax liabilities and stimulate economy. Apply for the KIZ tax credit to offset tax liabilities and stimulate economy. Apply for the KIZ tax credit to offset tax liabilities and stimulate economy.

#### MANAGEMENT SECTION

Responsible Office:

Office of Technology Investment

Responsible Office Director: Collins, Sheri

Responsible Account Mgr:

**GAT Account Mgr:** 

# PROGRAM NAME: KIZ Tax Credit Program

Amd	Recommended Amount	Approved Amount	Start/Loan Closing Status Date	,
Original Contract	100,000.00	100,000.00	Legal Process Complete	

#### PROJECT ADDENDA

# PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Do you have a KIZ Coordinators Certificate signed by your KIZ Coordinator?

if Yes please upload the document here. Upload KIZ Coordinator Certification

**Uploaded Documents** 

10 KIZ Cert\_Abelle.pdf View

If No You must contact your KiZ Coordinator to get the certificate prior to applying for the KiZ Tax Credit.

Please contact:
Technology investment Office
717-787-4147
Ra-Techho/TaxCredit@state.pa.us

# **KIZ TAX CREDIT V1**

KIZ Tax Credit Workshoot

1. Please download and complete the attached KiZ Tax Credit Worksheet. Unload the completed worksheet below.
Download KiZ Tax Credit Worksheet.xis

#### Uploaded Documents

01 Abella KIZ\_Tax\_Credit\_Worksheet\_2014.xlsx View

Attach a copy of the filed PA Tax return for the Comparable tax year (last years tax return).If documents are too large please include them with your signature page.

#### Uploaded Documents

02 2013 RCT-101.pdf View

3. Attach a copy of the flied PA Tax return for the Base tax year (the year prior to the comparable tax year). If documents are too large please include them with your signature page.

#### Uploaded Documents

03 2012 RCT-101.pdf View

4. Attach a copy of the signature page (or verification page of electronic filing) of the federal tax return for the Comparable tax year (last years tax return). If documents are too large please include them with your signature page.

#### Uploaded Documents

04 KIZ eSignature Page 2013.pdf View

5. Attach a copy of the signature page (or verification page of electronic filing) of the federal tax return for the Base tax year (the year prior to the Comparable tax year).
if documents are too large please include them with your signature page.

#### Uploaded Documents

05 2012 1120 pdf View

6. All pages of the federal tax return for the Comparable tax year (last years tax return) identified on the KiZ Tax Credit Worksheet.

If documents are too large please include them with your signature page.

#### Uploaded Documents

06 2013 1120.pdf View

7. All pages of the federal tax return for the Base tax year (the year prior to the Comparable tax year) identified on the KIZ Tax Credit Worksheet.

If documents are too large please include them with your signature page.

Uploaded Documents

07 2012 1120.pdf View

8. All other documents detailed on the KiZ Tax Credit Worksheet for the Comparable tax year (last years tax return).

If documents are too large please include them with your signature page.

Uploaded Documents

08 2013 1125-A.pdf · View

9. All other documents detailed on the KIZ Tax Credit Worksheet for the Base tax year (the year prior to the Comparable tax year).

If documents are too large please include them with your signature page.

**Uploaded Documents** 

09 2012 Statement 1 1120 line 26.pdf View

Along with the completed application and signature page, please send one (1) copy of all the documents identified on the KiZ Tax Credit Worksheet to the following address:

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Commonwealth Keystone Building Attn: Customer Service Center 400 North Street, 4th Floor Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225



# APPENDIX B KIZ COORDINATOR'S CERTIFICATION

belgmated target industry segment (sector) of	(Identity the dealgran			
ompany has been in operation for less than eight (8) ye	(control) are condimi		w MAIOS mode)	and this KIZ
titibenta time month in abarancas in tana acare and see but be	are. The KIZ Comps	nt purpos androny, accessor ny hos de la presently i	variding with the failowh	ng KiZ partnera:
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engangan pagaman pandapan ang paggangan pangangan ang paggangan Canada ang ang ang ang ang ang ang ang ang an	ross Revenues for the Compe	rable Tex Yea	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
Comperable Tex Year (Comp Year) 2019	The Form if or Document Name	Line #	Pege #	Amount	
Gross Revenues for the Comp Year	1120	10		\$510,900	(Line 1
Revenus from Grants (If not included in Gross Revenues in Une 1 above).				•	(Line 2
ien revenues from non-KIZ talgeted activities					(Line 3
Subtotal (lines 1 & 2 minus line 3)				\$510,900	(Line 4
iass revenues from the sales of tax cradits	•				(Line S
Total gross revenues for the Comp Year	, may 3 m	Van 1 man van van van van van van van van van		6510,900	(Line 6
fow many days was the Company located in the KiZ Zone in the Comp Year			Bat #11.2	365	(Line 7
tre the revenues provided for the time in the XIZ Zone?		1.		. Yes	(Line 8
The second secon	Gross Revenues for the Ba	e Tax Year	11 12		
lase (for Year (Base Your) 2012	You Fairn Nor Document Name	Line #	和強性質	Amount	
Prosa Revenues for the Base Year	1120	da.	1	\$189,000	(Line 9,
evenue from Grants (if not included in Gross Revenues n Une 9 above).					(Lina 10
eas revanues from mort-KIZ targeted activities					(Una 1:
ubtotol (linex 9 & 10 minus line 11)		1144		\$189,000	(Une 1)
use revenues from the sales of tax credits					(Link 19

Continue to Comparable Tax Year.

How many days was the Company located in the KIZ Zone In the Base Year

Are the revenues promoted for the time in the KiZ Zone?

\$189,000

865

(Une 14)

(Une 15)

Next Page

الأراثان أالمستعب تستمح للفحير للتستيين الأرادان ويبوري والأراثلا مراجي الرزاء	Base Tax Year Worksheet (V)	ithin the KIZ)		E samenasaning
Committee of the Commit	Property Feotor Calcula			· · ·
ltem .	Document in	<del></del>	Dan di	Amount .
	Tax Form # or Document Name 1120	Line#	Pege#	512,900
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Bulkiling & Entripropert Subtotal		17 YE (45 H)	Cardina Andrews	<u> </u>
Property Factor (Total of All Property)	<u> </u>	e company	(Line E)	\$109,200
	Payroll Factor Calculat			12 24 12 3
liam	Document in	formation Line#	Page #	Amount
41144-4-4	Tax Form if or Decument Name	LIKE #		
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ompensation of officers.	1120	12		\$4,830
parenteed payments to paythers	1520	28		\$4,380
et profits peld to the owner of the company				
nd included as part of the owners federal				
ersonal tax returns. ommissions and fees paid to employees of	And the second s			
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out of labor (provided the workers are				
rectly employed by the company). Payroll Factor (Total of All Wagne) Within			(Line F)	\$8,910
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	Base Tex Year Worksheet	(Within PA)	Fare grant	
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Hem	Document In	Comment of the later of the second	150,22,04	Amount
		Line#	Page #	
	Tex Form # or Document Name		1 4 1	\$12,000
Annual Rant, Lucas, Morforce	1 180	16	1 1	\$12,900
Annual Rent, Lease, Mortgage			1	
		16		\$12,000
Proparty Value Fector	1180	16		\$12,900 X.E
Proparty Value Factor	1180	16		\$12,900 X.E
Property Value Feator  Rent, Leses, Mostpage Subtotal ulidings, Equipment 6, Other Depreciable actis	1180	16		\$12,900 X 5
Property Value Fector  Rent, Leses, Mostpage Subtotal ulidings, Equipment 6. Other Depreciable secis. Septembry of Your	1180	16		\$12,900 X.E
Proparty Value Factor  Reint, Lesses, Mostpage Substatal wildings, Equipment 6. Other Deprectable secies Beginning of Year End of Year	1180	16		\$12,000 x 1 5 0
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Property Value Feator  Rent, Leses, Mortpage Subtotal uildings, Equipment 5. Other Depreciable seds.  Beginning of Year  End of Year  Sum  Building & Equipment Subtotal  Property Factor (Total of All Property)	1120	10		\$12,000 x   x   x   x   x   x   x   x   x   x
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Dividends tigid to narinars.	1120		28		\$4,380
Net profits paid to the owner of the company	<u> </u>	•			
and included as part of the owners federal	•				
personal tax returns. Commissions and fees paid to employees of		.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,			
the company working in the game					
Cost of labor (provided the workers are:		. >=			
directly amployed by the company)		•			
Payroll Factor (Total of All Wages) Within		دور مسرد و		(Line H)	\$8,910 -

# Proceed to the Calculation Sheet Tab.

Please Note: Your company must have property or payroll expenses in the KiZ in the Comparable AND Base Taxable Years to be eligible for the KiZ Tex Credit

Previous Page

**Next Page** 

Part A

Gross Revenues of the company for the Comparable Tax Year attributable to targeted industry activities within the KiZ.

Enter the Comparable Tax Year	*	2013	]
Property Fector Property within KIZ (from line A) +	\$100,392		
Property within PA (from line C)	\$109,392 =	100.00%	(Line 1)
Payroli Factor Payroli within KiZ (from line B)	\$113,117		
Payroli within PA (from line D)	\$113,117 =	100,00%	(Line 2)
Total (Line 1 + Line 2)  KiZ Apportionment	And the second s	200.00%	(Line 3)
. (From Line 3)	200.00% + 2 =	100,00%	(Line 4)
Pe	nhsylvania Gross Revenues		
in target i	\$510,900.00	(Line 5)	
Compare	pble Year's Gross Revenues		
aitributable	e to the KIZ (Line 5 x Line 4)	\$510,900.00	(Line 6)

Part B
Gross Revenues of the company for the Base Tax Year attributable to targeted industry activities within the Kiz.

			_
Enter the Base Tax Year		2012	
Property Factor			:
Property within KIZ (from line E) +	\$103,200		
Property within PA (from line G)	\$103,200	100.00%	(Line 7)
Payroli Factor			
Payroll within KIZ (from line F)	\$8,910		
Payrol) within PA (from line H)	\$8,910 =	100.00%	(Line 8)
Total (Line 7 + Line 8)	,	200.00%	(Line 9)
KIZ Apportionment			
(From Line 9)	200.00% +2=	100.00%	(Line 10)
P	ennsylvania Gross Revenues		

in target industry in Comparable Year.	\$189,000,00 (Line 11)
Comparable Year's Gross Revenues	
attributable to the KIZ (Line 11 x Line 10)	\$189,000.00 (Line 12)

Provide only whole dollars on the Appendix A, Section ill gross revenue forms.

# Congratulations, your company may be eligible for the KIZ Tax Credit.

### Part C

Comparable Tax Year		2013	(Line 13)
Base Tax Year	The same case and page your party your court and appet plant	2012	(Line 14)
Comparable Tax Year			
Gross Revenues of the company stirl activities in the	butable to target industry KIZ for the year in Line 6	\$510,900.00	(Line 15)
Base Tex Year	,		
Gross Revenues of the company attri activities in the K	\$189,000.00	(Line 16)	
Increase in Grose Revenues (Line 16 – Line 17)		\$321,900.00	(Line 17)
50% of amount on Line 17		\$160,950.00	(Line 18)
Amount of KiZ Tax Credit for which the Company is applying	anne Jeune Depart Militer Militer Militer States (Jeune) unique unique diaminé diaminé diaminé diaminé diaminé Alles America Nichola Nichola del Militer de Laure des la Laure de Laure de Laure de Laure de Laure de Laure de	\$100,000,00	(Line 19)

Note: Your company must have property or payroll expenses in the KiZ in the Comparable AND Base Taxable Years to be eligible for the KiZ Tax Credit.

Note: Line 6 or \$100,000, whichever is less, is the maximum KiZ Tax Credit for which the company may apply on Line 7.

Note: If the total for all qualified applications received by DCED exceeds the annual allocation, the amount awarded will be reduced from the amount listed on this application.

**Previous Page** 

# RCT-101 (97-19) PAGE 1 OF 6 PA CORPORATE TAX REPORT 20 13

DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

A = 1120	B = 11208	C = 1120C	D = 1120F	E = 1120H	F = 106	5 <b>G</b>	= 1040	H = Other		•		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
STEP A												
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STEP B										****		
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STEP C											٠	
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STEP F: Transfe	r/Refund	Method (84	e instruct	ione.)			E-FIH	Opt Out	(200	·irsturug	ious.j	N
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0		Refund: Amount to be refunded after offsetting all unpaid Sebilities							•			
STEP G: Corpor	ate Office	ır (Sign <b>effi</b>	rmation be	low)								
	<u>.</u>											
NAME PHONE EMAIL	_		•							FORM BARC	ODE	0000 1055
····			• •	٠								

I willim trader permittee prescribed by ten, this report, including any accompanying actualities and statements, has been accorded by the and to this best of my investedge and better is a time, context and complete report. If this report is an emended report, the incorpar horsely operating to the according of the emendant period for this tox years from the stilling of the original report, whichever period lest septres, and agrees to retain all required records perioding to that text gold until the end of the extended assessment period, reporters of any analyzing provision providing for a shorter period of valention. For purposes of this extended, and original report field before the due date is desired field on the due date, I am authorized to execute the consent to the extended or the extended.

Corporate Officer Signature

0000000

REVENUE ID

NAME 15375073 TAX YEAR END PA CORPORATE TAX REPORT 20 13 RCT-101 PAGE 2 OF 6 SECTION A: CS/FF CLDEST PERIOD TAX PERIOD TAX PERIOD 652ETOOTOT FIRST BEGINNING ENDING BOOK INCOME N XX YEAR Investment in LLC XX **Holding Company** YEAR XX N Family Fam YEAR YEAR YEAR YEAR YEAR . -470 USE WHOLE DOLLARS ONLY 07075073 15375073 **CURYR** -470 2. TOTAL BOOK INCOME (sum of income for all tax periods up to, but not over 5 years total) 1.000 3. DIVISOR (in years and in part years rounded to three decimal places) See instructions. -470 4. Divide Line 2 by Line 3. 5. AVERAGE BOOK INCOME - Enter Line 4, or if Line 4 is less than zero enter "O". 6. Divide Line 5 by 0.095. 48072 7. Shareholders' equity at the END of the current period 50728 8. Shareholders' equity at the BEGINNING of the current period 48072 9. If Line 7 is more than twice as great or less than itsif as much as Line 8, add Lines 7 and 8 and divide by 2. Otherwise enter Line 7. 48072 10 10. NET WORTH - Enter Line 9, or if Line 9 is less than zero enter "O". 11 36054 11. Multiply Line 10 by 0.75. 12 36054 12. Add Lines 6 and 11. 13 18027 13. Divide Line 12 by 2. -740000 14 14. Valuation deduction 15. CAPITAL STOCK VALUE - Line 18 minus Line 14, but not less than zero. If 100% texable, 15 enter Line 15 on Line 17. 1.000000 16. Proportion of taxable assets or apportionment proportion (from Schedule A-1, Line 5) 16 17 0 17. TAXABLE VALUE - Multiply Line 15 by Line 16. If less than zero, enter "C". 18 0 18. CAPITAL STOCKFOREIGN FRANCHISE TAX - Multiply Line 17 by <u>0.00089</u>. Total Beginning of Texable Year Assets EEPS01 Total End of Texable 278999 Year Assets

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REVENUE ID TAX YEAR END CT-101 PAGE 3 OF 6	DDDDDDD 12312013 NAME PA CORPORATE TAX RE	PORT 20 <u>13</u>		
ECTION B: Storius Depreciation Current year fed, deprec, of 168k prop. Current year ed, for disp. of 168k prop. Ottor edjustments lacts schedule C-3 if claiming tue depreciation.)	2 0	Single-Member LLC	XX XX XX XX XX	2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
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B. Tax preference items (Attach copy of C. Employment insective payment credible.) Current year bonus depreciation (Attach schedule.) See Institut	f federal Form 4626.) It adjustment (Attach Schedule W.) Iach Schedule C-3.) Itione.		3A 3B 3C 3D 3E 3	0 0 0 0
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	TAX YEAR END CT-101 PAGE 3 OF 6 CTION B: Bonus Depreciation Current year fed, deprec, of 168k prop. Current year sell, for disp, of 168k prop. Current year sell, for disp, of 168k prop. Current year sell, for disp, of 168k prop. Citier edjustments selt schedule C-3 if claiming use depreciation.)  CTION C: CORPORATE NET I Income or loss from federal return on a DEDUCTIONS: A. Corporate dividends received (from 8 B. Interest on U.S. securities (GROSS C. Curr, yr. addil. PA deprec, plus adju D. Offier (Attach schedule.) See instruct TOTAL DEDUCTIONS - Sum of A through B. Tex preference items (Attach copy of C. Employment insentive payment cred D. Current year bohus depreciation (Att E. Other (Attach schedule.) See instruct TOTAL ADDITIONS - Sum of A through Income or loss with Pennsylvenia soljus Total nonbusiness income or loss Income or loss to be apportioned (Line Nonbusiness income or loss after apportion Total net operating loss deduction (from PA taxable income or loss (Line 10 min PA taxable income or loss (Line 10 min	TAX YEAR END CT-101 PAGE 3 OF 6  CCTION B: Somus Depreciation Current year fed, deprec, of 168k prop. Current year fed, for dept of 168k prop. Current year fed, deprec, of 168k prop. Current year fed, for dept of 168k prop. Current year fed, for dept of 168k prop. CCTION C: CORPORATE NET ENCOME TAX Income or less from foderal return on a separate-company basis  DEDUCTIONS: A. Corporate dividends received (from Schedule C-2, Line 8) B. Interest on U.S. securities (GROSS INT minus EXPENSES) C. Carr, yr. addit. PA deprec. plus adjust for sais (Attach Schedule C-3.) D. Other (Attach schedule.) See Instructions. TOTAL DEDUCTIONS - Sum of A through D  ADDITIONS: A. Taxes Imposed on or measured by net income (Attach schedule.) B. Tax preference items (Attach copy of federal Form 4526.) C. Employment insentive payment credit adjustment (Attach Schedule W.) D. Current year bodius depreciation (Attach Schedule C-3.) E. Other (Attach schedule.) See Instructions. TOTAL ADDITIONS - Sum of A through E  Income or lose with Pennsylvenia adjustments (Line 1 minus Line 2 plus Line 2 plus Line 3 from or lose upportioned (Line 4 minus Line 5) Apportionment proportion (from Schedule C-1, Line 5) Income or lose upportioned to PA (Line 5 times Line 7) Nonbusiness income or lose allocated to PA Taxable income or lose deduction (from ROT-109) PA taxable income or lose (Line 10 minus Line 11)	TAX YEAR END  T-101 PAGE 3 OF 6  PA CORPORATE TAX REPORT 20 13  COTION B: Bonus Depreciation Current year field, for disp. of 168k prop. Cotter edjustments  3	TAX YEAR END CT-101 PAGE 3 OF 6  CTION B: Bonus Depreciation Current year fed, deprec, of 168k prop. 1

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RCT-101 F	TAX YEA PAGE 4	AR EN		201	3	NAME TAX REPORT	20 <u>13</u>		
	orations on	ly. Did	this corporation issu			resident in Pennsylveni		N	
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achedule ca	1: Apportion	Iment	Schedule For Corp	orate i	let Income	Tax (Include Form R	OT-106.) *		
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Seles - Total	36			Ū			Proportion		

<sup>\*</sup> Refer to the instructions in the CT-1 PA Corporation Tax Booklet (REV-1200) found at www.revenue.etate.pa.us.

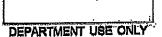
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REVENUE ID TÁX YEAR END RCT-101 PAGE 5 OF 6	0000 1231 12 Aq		ME MEPOI	RT 20 <u>13</u>					
SECTION E: CORPORATE STA	TUS CHA	NGES	•						
Figur Raport	XX	N							
PA Corporations:									
Did you ever transact business anywhere?	XX	N If yes, enter d	eenizud ile etel	activity coased	XX				
Did you hold assets enywhere?	XX	N If yes, enter d	lata of final disp	osition of assets*	XX			SSETOBTOT	
Foreign Corporations:								뗫	erados Autoritano
Did you ever transact business in PA?	XX	N If yes, enter d	lete PA husine	e autivity ceased	XX			.n	
Did you hold assets in PA?		T	inte of final disp		XX				
*Schedule of Disposition of Assets must it	e completed	and filed with this r	epoti.						
Hea the corporation sold or transferred in	buik 51 parci	ent or more of eny o	iese of secets	(See instructions.)		XX	N		
If yes, enter the following information. (Atta	icy a solum	te echadule if additi	ortal space is t	escied.)				•	•
Purchaser Name XX				•		•		•	
Address Line 1 XX									
Address Line 2 XX		•							
City XX				·					
State XX		•			•				
ZIP XX									
SECTION F: GENERAL INFORM Describe corporate activity in PA Describe corporate activity outside PA Other status in which taxpayer has activity	CN			PROGRAMMIN	G SERVI	CEZ			
State of Incorporation XX D	E Inc	corporation Date	XX	700,750,75	•				
1. Does any corporation, individual or other 2. Does this corporation own all or a major 3. In this taxpayer a parinerable that electe 4. Has the faderal government changed to have not been filed in PA?	rity of stock i to file feder	in other corporations all taxes as a corpora- e as originally report	n? If yes, comp retion? ted for easy pric	lete Schedule X.  r period for which n		i•		XX XX XX XX	N N N N
If yes: First Period End Date: , XX		Lac	st Period End I	Herte: XX					
Accounting Method - Federal Tax Return								;	
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xx. Preparer's Signature		•	* 1	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		Delp	
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## RCT-101 (08-12) PAGE 1 OF 6 PA CORPORATE TAX REPORT 20



A= 1120 B= 11208 C= 1120C D= 1120F E= 1120H F= 1065 G= 1040 H= Ciber 26121012172 XX

STEP A XX 15315015 XX GTOTSOTS Tax Year Ending Tex Year Beginning STEP B First Report 52-53 Week Filer XX N Amended Report XX N KOZ/EIP/SDA Credit XX N Address Change Federal Extension Granted XX N File Period Change XX N Change Fed Group Regulated Inv. Co. STEP C Parent Corporation EIN Revenue ID Federal EIN XX Business Activity Code XX XX Corporation Name Address Line 1 XX HOLLAND AVE XX Address Line 2 XX LANCASTER City XX PA State

17603

### USE WHOLE DOLLARS ONLY

STEP E:

STEP D	A. Tax Liability from Tax Report (cam not be less than zero)	B. Hellmeted Payments & Gredite on Deposit	C, Restricted Gredite	Payment Due/Overpayment Catalition Annue 8 minus G Sea Instructions	
CS/FF LOANS CNI TOTAL	G G A		0 0 0	D D B	

STEP F: TransferiRefund Method: See Instructions

XX

E-File Opt Out: See Instructions

- Transfers Amount to be created to the next ٥ has your after offsetting all unpoid liabilities
- Refunds Amount to be refunded alter offselling all unpedd Mebilides

STEP G: Corporate Officer (Sign affirmation below)

NAME PHONE EMAIL,

ZΡ



FORM BARCODE 7055 0000

I diffirm under permitter greedfied by her this report, including any accompanying adheduses and intermedia, her them stemmind by me and to the best of thy incrededge and belief is a true, correct end complete report. If it is proof is an attraction open, the temperar hereby consents to the extension of the measurement period for the tax year from the titleg of the original report, whichever period lest extension, and agrees to retain all negated records periodic text and text period until the end of the cotended assessment period, regardless of any statutory provision providing for a shorter period of relations. For purposes of his extension, an original report field before the due date is desired field on the class date. I arm indicated to search the consent to the estimation of the seasonment period.

Corporate Officer Signature

Date

	REVENUE ID TAX YEAR END GE 2 OF 6	PA CORPORA	NAME TE TAX REPORT 20	<u>12</u>		
SECTION A: C	\$/FF	•				
OLDEST PERIOD FIRST	tax period Beginning	TAX PERIOD ENDING	. ВООК ІМСОМЕ			10100
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3. DMBOR. (in ye 4. Divide Line 2 by	are and in part years Line 9.	ima for all tax periods up rounded to three decimal line 4, or if Line 4 is less	to, but not over 5 years total) places) See instructions. than zero enter "0".	2 3 4 6		95. 7•000 85
8. Shareholders' e. 9. If Line 7 is more	quity at the END of th quity at the BEGRINI	NG of the current period r less than half as much	us Line 8, edd	6 7 8		843 50082 0 25041
11. Multiply Line 10 12. Add Lines 6 end 13. Divide Line 12 b 14. Valuation deduc	by 0.75. d 11. by 2. dion CK VALUE - Line 13 l	e 8 is isse then zero ente isse Line 14, but not isse	then "0". If 100% taxable,	10 11 12 13 14 15		25041 14761 19644 9822 -160000
16. Proportion of te 17. TAXABLE VAL	mable speets or sippor	tionment proportion (from by Line 16, if less than 2 - Multiply time 17 by	Schedule A-1, Line 5) aro, enter "0". D - DD 1 A 9	18 17 18		1-080000 0 0
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Total End of Tension Year Assets	Kanada :	101897				• •

REVENUE ID TAX YEAR END RCT-101 PAGE 3 OF 6	12312012 NAME PA CORPORATE TAX F	EPC	DRT 20 12			
SECTION B: Bonus Depreciation 1. Current year fed, deprec, of 168k prop. 2. Current year adj, for disp, of 168k prop. 3. Other adjustments (Atlach schedule C-3 if deliming bonus depreciation.)	1 2 3	Business Trust Solidation Only Skigle-Member LLC Multi-Member LLC PA-S Corporation Taxable Bulk-in Gains	religio-Member LLC XX Nullingio-Member LLC XX Nullingi			
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SECTION C: CORPORATE NET IN  1. Income or loss from federal return on a s				. 1		82
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3. ADDITIONS:  A. Taxes imposed on or measured by na  B. Tax preference items (attach copy of the copy	ederal Form 4628) adjustment (attach Schedule W) th Schedule C-3) ne.	· .	3A 3B 3C 3D 3E 3		0 0 0 0	
<ol> <li>Income or loss with Pennsylvania adjusts</li> <li>Total nonbusiness income or loss</li> <li>Income or loss to be apportioned (Line 4</li> <li>Apperionment proportion (from Schedula</li> <li>Income or loss apportioned to PA (Line 6</li> <li>Nonbusiness income or loss allocated to</li> <li>Texable income or loss after apportionme</li> <li>Total net operating loss deduction (from</li> <li>PA speable income or loss (Line 10 minute</li> </ol>	minus Line 8) C-1, Line 5) times Line 7) FA int (Line 8 plus Line 9) RCT-103)	3)		4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		58 000000-1 58 90 58 26 28

13. Corporate net income tax (Line 12 firms

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resident in Pe	nneyivenia?						XX	N	į.
- 9. Did this corpor	ration have inde	gnibratatuo saanbatd	held by	e trustes	, agent (	or guardian for a	<b>)</b>		7
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	õ	00.000				8	Loans Tex	XX	Ω
	Apportionment	Schedule For Capital	l Stock	/Foreign	Franchi	ee Tex (include		T-195 or RCT-	106.)
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SECTION E: CORF	DRATE ST	ATUS (	HANG	ES				•				
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PA Corporations:									•			
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Foreign Compretions:											Z6SZTODIOT	
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*Schedule of Disposition of	f Assets MUS	F be com	na batek	d filed with the P	A Corporat	e Tax Repor	Ł					
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SECTION F; GENER Describe corporate activity Describe corporate activity Other states in which texp	in PA outside PA		N QUE	estionnaire								
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Form 8879-C IRS e-file Signature Authorization for Form 112		<u>161</u> 23
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Department of the Treasury  Description about Form SETS-C and he instructions in at www.ini.gbv/formation.	ATTENDED TO MATERIAL PROPERTY.	<del>diam's</del>
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Part   Tax Return Information (Whole dollars only)	7/3	644
1 Total income (Form 1120) inte 11)		-4.7 C
2 Taxable accome (Form 1120, line 50)	3.	ી
3 Total tax (Form 1120, line 31)	4	
4 Amount over (Form 1120, line 34)	180	b.; • • •
5 Overpainters (Form 1120, line 35)  Part It: Declaration and Signature Authorization of Officer (Six sure to get a copy of index penalties of penuty, I declare that I am an officer of the above corporation and that I have examined and the line of the legislation of the legislat	A five cortinization a name in	
sectronic income tax return. I consent to allow my electronic return circles (circ), treatment of receipt and the corporation's return to the IRS and to receive from the IRS (a) an acknowledgement of receipt anamassion, (b) the resent for entry delay in processing the return or return, and (c) the date of any real of the corporation for any tell and the corporation's federal familiation economic folicited in the tax preparation software for payment of the corporation's federal familiation economic folicited in the tax preparation software for payment of the corporation's federal familiation account the content of the corporation's federal familiation accounts the content of the payment of the corporation for the payment (settlement) date. I also authorize the processing of the electronic payment of taxes to receive confidential information necessary to an uses related to the payment, I have selected a personal latertification number (PRI) as my signature owns tax return and, if applicable, the corporation's consent to electronic funds withdraws.  [Reserve PIN: sheck one box only  As an officer of the corporation, I will enter my PIN as my algreture on the corporation's 20 return.	etit) entry to the financial se owed on the financial Treasury Financial Agent at the financial institutions involve sewer inquiries and resolve for the corporation's electronic  my PiN se net enter at some	d Ignatu
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11	Total Income, Ad	d lines 3 ti	หลัยคืน 10	f annatunneneeste 1994. 1994: Mario 403 (224 (224)	es 6 2 2 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	Ji chi shiamas		31.	73,644
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20	Depreciation from	Form 460	2 not delined on Form	n 1126-A or elepwhere	on netum (attac	h Form 458	2)	20	439
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24	Employee benefit	etrograma és					. 4	77.7.	
直 25	Domestic producti	on activitie	e deduction (expen F	orm 8903)	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		Stant 1	26	16,659
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34	Amount owed if	Ine 32 te	smaller than the total	of lines 31 and 39, eni	er emount owed	12(444)44141		34	1
35	Overpayment if	ine 32 is f	erger than the total of	lines 31 and 39, enter	amount overpek	d		35	
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	10	Other income	(see instruction	orne—attach at	alement)	.,,,,,,,,,,				a <u>r</u> 3	11	189,000
,	11	Total Income	. Add lines 3 t	hrough 10				<u></u>			12	4,530
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1	15	Bad debts	.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	*******		.4:24,7:1::4:27	********				16	12,900
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	31	Total tex (Scho	edule J, Part I	, line 11)			*********	************	******		31	12
맭	32	Total payment	s and refunde	bie oradita (St	hedule J, Part II	, line 21) , , ,		******		أ بسردي	32	
3)	33	Estimated tex	penalty (eas i	instructions). C	heck if Form 22	20 le attached	١,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,			<b>▶</b> ∐	33	
H	34	Amount owe	d. If fine 32 la	amater than t	to total of linea S	11 and 99, ent	er emount ow	ad			34	12
7 E	35	Overpayment	. If the 32 is i	larger than the	total of lines 31	end 39, enter	amount every	said			35	······································
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Form 1125-A

(Rev. December 2012) Department of the Treestry

### Cost of Goods Sold

Attach to Form 1120, 1120-0, 1120-F, 11205, 1085, or 1085-B.

Information about Form 1125-A and its Instructions is at www.irs.govitorm1125s.

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### Federal Statements

FYE: 12/31/2012

### Statement 1 - Form 1120, Page 1, Line 26 - Other Deductions

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# EXHIBIT "C"

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Dated 21 Aug 18 Created by Baker

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# RESPONSE

### IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: : SUPREME COURT OF

PENNSYLVANIA : 98 M.D. MISC. DKT. 2017

THE FORTY-SECOND STATEWIDE : DAUPHIN COUNTY COMMON PLEAS

INVESTIGATING GRAND JURY : NO. CP-22-M.D.-1249-2017

: NOTICE NO. 21

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESPONSE TO ORDER ACCEPTING INVESTIGATION GRAND JURY REPORT NO. 2 AND DIRECTING FURTHER ACTION PRIOR TO THE REPORT BEING MADE PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD

AND NOW, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019, comes the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Revenue, by and through its duly appointed representative, the Honorable C. Daniel Hassell, Secretary of Revenue, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development, by and through its duly appointed representative, the Honorable Dennis M. Davin, Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development to respond to the above-captioned Grand Jury's findings and recommendations for legislative, executive or administrative action as directed in Paragraph 5 of the Grand Jury's above-captioned Order. The Respondents hereby aver as follows:

### Background and Timeline of Department of Revenue's Actions Prior To Grand Jury No.

### 42 Report

In September and October of 2017, the Department of Revenue (hereinafter "Revenue") identified a number of inconsistencies in the applications submitted by a business entity for the

Keystone Innovation Zone (hereinafter "KIZ") and Research and Development (hereinafter "R&D") tax credit programs administered by the Commonwealth. Due to the inconsistencies, the applications for the entity in question were suspended from further processing. Meanwhile, Revenue commenced an in-depth review of the entity and its filings.

That review revealed the entity in question was associated with Wing Tat Chiu and Ivy Hui-Ying Li, the perpetrators named in the Grand Jury's report. Revenue's review revealed inconsistencies with other tax credit applications for business entities that were or were suspected to be related to Mr. Chiu and Ms. Li. The internal review involved resources from multiple bureaus within Revenue to further examine the matter. Leveraging the data that was available, Revenue was able to identify patterns and relationships with the companies related to or suspected to be related to Mr. Chiu and Ms. Li. The review uncovered a scheme that appeared to show Mr. Chiu and Ms. Li created sham companies in order to fraudulently obtain and sell tax credits.

Recognizing that law enforcement resources were necessary to further investigate the matter and to ultimately hold the individuals accountable, Revenue made a criminal referral to the Office of Attorney General in October of 2017. That led to the convening of the Grand Jury, which confirmed Revenue's suspicions that Mr. Chiu and Ms. Li used fraudulent companies to obtain and sell tax credits as part of their criminal enterprise.

It should be noted that Revenue's work to identify this suspected fraud and refer the case to the Office of Attorney General helped to prevent the additional sales of the remaining tax credits

awarded to the companies associated with Mr. Chiu and Ms. Li. Moreover, Revenue acted as quickly as possible in referring the matter once it recognized the severity of the facts involved. Its staff also continued to provide information to the Office of Attorney General throughout the course of its investigation of Mr. Chiu and Ms. Li.

As a result of its review of this suspected criminal activity, Revenue also created and implemented revised protocols to combat and prevent future fraudulent activity within the R&D program, which Revenue is responsible for administering. These include the following:

- (i) Mandated electronic filing in order to facilitate review and analysis of applications; 1
- (ii) Implementation of a risk-based review process that determines applications that require additional examination and requests for further documentation;
- (iii) Creation of a database to monitor companies suspected of fraudulent or questionable activity concerning the sale of credits; and
- (iv) Additional training and protocols related to interaction with suspected entities as well as post-interaction standards.

In addition to these steps, Revenue has other tools available to combat fraud. For instance, in March 2016, Revenue created a Fraud Detection and Analysis Unit. This Unit was designed to identify potential fraudulent refund returns, assist taxpayers who have become victims of identity theft, and work with the Internal Revenue Service, other states, third-party software providers, and the electronic commerce industry to address fraud issues.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Additionally, Revenue redesigned its application with added fields to establish identity and capture additional evidence of expenses. The effort to redesign the application were underway well in advance of Revenue's awareness of the actions of Mr. Chiu and Ms. Ll.

Through the utilization of third-party data analytic tools, Revenue expects to save taxpayers over \$80 million in fraudulent personal income tax refund requests by 2020. It is Revenue's intent to utilize the resources available within its Fraud Detection and Analysis Unit to examine potential cases of fraud in future tax credit applications that are received.

Furthermore, Revenue is in the process of several internal projects that will better position it to detect fraud. Revenue has embarked on a system-wide modernization effort to convert legacy silo tax systems and integrate each into a truly consolidated system. When this objective is completed over the next few years, Revenue will be able to examine a consolidated view of a taxpayer's account, which assists with processing and will allow Revenue to employ additional analytics, reporting and fraud detection tools. Revenue is also in the midst of a significant organizational restructuring. As part of the reorganization, Revenue has placed an emphasis on an improvement in standardized training and the creation of a unitary analytics group, both which will help prevent fraud.

Revenue, the Department of Community and Economic Development (hereinafter "DCED") and other Commonwealth of Pennsylvania agencies administer 29 distinct tax credit programs that can annually allocate approximately \$558 million in credits, refunds, and exemptions.<sup>2</sup> Within these programs, the Commonwealth reviews and processes over 7,471 applications each year. Of these programs, 16 allow for the assignment or sale of tax credits. Annually, Revenue

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Within the 29 credit programs, 23 have statutory limitations which allow for up to approximately \$558 million to be awarded as credits. Additionally, 6 programs are uncapped, and awarded a total of \$92 million in fiscal year 2017-18.

anticipates reviewing approximately 15,000 credit sale transaction requests. Additionally, most credit programs allow for credit carry-forwards or may allow the credit to flow through to an entity owner.

As per statute, most programs are designed to require expedited Commonwealth review of applications for credit awards as well as credit sales. In many cases, submissions to Revenue must be reviewed within a 90-day window, and some require a 60-day review. See, generally, 72 P.S. § 8712-D (90 day review of applications for film credit), 24 P.S. § 20-2003-B(e) (60 day review of applications for education tax credit). All programs require a tax clearance prior to approval. 72 P.S. § 8702-A.1(A).

# Background and Timeline of Department of Community and Economic Development's Actions Prior To Grand Jury No. 42 Report

As part of the KIZ Tax Credit application process, DCED requires KIZ applicants to submit their federal tax returns and their Pennsylvania tax returns for the past two years in order to verify increased gross revenues. On January 1, 2016, the Pennsylvania capital stock and foreign franchise tax was eliminated, completing a gradual phase-out that began in 2002. Because of this, a number of KIZ applicants were no longer subject to a Pennsylvania tax filing requirement. DCED had used the Pennsylvania tax filings to confirm not only revenues generated but business activity within the KIZ. Concerned about the potential for abuse, DCED initiated a conversation with Revenue in June of 2017 to discuss additional safeguards that could be implemented. As a result of these discussions, DCED instituted a new application requirement. KIZ applicants, who did not have a Pennsylvania tax filing requirement, were now required to submit their "Welcome

to Pennsylvania" letter which is issued by Revenue once businesses register with the Pennsylvania Department of State.

Because of this new safeguard, a business entity requested a copy of its "Welcome to Pennsylvania" letter. This request led to the discovery of a number of inconsistencies in KIZ and R&D applications submitted by this business entity. Because of these inconsistencies, DCED, in consultation with Revenue, suspended further processing of the applications submitted by this business and promptly requested that the local KIZ coordinator perform a site visit to verify that the business was located and operating in a KIZ. The business continued to delay the site visit and eventually withdrew its KIZ application. As part of an extensive review by DCED of the KIZ applications filed by this business, DCED noticed a suspicious similarity between the applications filed by this business and those filed by four other KIZ applicants. Consequently, DCED requested that the local KIZ coordinators perform site visits on these businesses as well. As a result of this additional investigation, DCED denied approval of the KIZ applications filed by these four businesses.

Cognizant that it is a steward of taxpayer funds, DCED is continually evaluating its processes to achieve efficiencies and safeguard tax revenues. As an example, DCED is instituting the following protocols in an effort to prevent fraudulent activity in the KIZ program:

- (i) Mandated yearly site visits by the local KIZ coordinators;
- (ii) Mandated state tax compliance checks to verify complete and timely state tax filings and no outstanding state tax liabilities;

- (iii) Development of a standardized Statement of Work for KIZ coordinators which establishes best practices and procedures for the responsible administration of the KIZ program;
- (iv) Creation of a database to monitor KIZ applicants suspected of fraud or other questionable activity concerning tax credits; and
- (v) Cross-training of DCED personnel to increase efficiency in the review of KIZ applications and to increase the breadth and depth of KIZ knowledge among DCED personnel.

### Grand Jury Report Recommendations and Respondents' Responses

Recommendation 1 — Other Pennsylvania tax credit programs require an audit of applications by certified public accountants. Independent audits would likely have prevented most or all of the million-dollar rip-offs we saw. They should be required for R&D and KIZ tax credits.

### Revenue Response:

Revenue concurs with the recommendation of the Grand Jury. A statutory change would be necessary in order to require R&D credit applicants to file audited financial statements with their application.

Small businesses may perceive this requirement as burdensome, especially if they have no other need to obtain audited financial statements. However, requiring and obtaining financial statements reviewed by a certified public accountant would further provide independent corroboration of R&D expenditures as well as substantiate the existence of the entity.

### DCED Response:

DCBD concurs with the recommendation of the Grand Jury. A statutory change would be necessary in order to require KIZ applicants to file audited financial statements with their applications.

DCED agrees with Revenue that requiring and obtaining financial statements reviewed by a certified public accountant would further provide independent corroboration of revenues as well as substantiate the business activity and existence of a KIZ applicant.

However, DCED shares Revenue's concern that small businesses may perceive this requirement as burdensome, especially if they have no other need to obtain audited financial statements. As an alternative to audited financial statements, DCED would support requiring independently reviewed or prepared income statements showing the breakdown of revenue as a supplement to the information provided via tax returns. Requiring income statements, rather than audited financial statements, may be a way of balancing the competing interests of preventing fraudulent activity and operating a program that meets the needs of KIZ businesses.

Recommendation 2—In reviewing applications, the responsible agencies must do more than simply check the boxes to see whether the attachments match the form. DOR, for example, should interview applicants in person, face-to-face to confirm that they are duly qualified.

Applicants should be required to submit photographic identification along with receipts, account

statements and financial records. IP addresses should be verified to ensure that applications are being submitted from businesses operating in Pennsylvania, not elsewhere.

### Revenue Response:

Revenue concurs with the Grand Jury that additional documentation should be reviewed in order to substantiate information provided on the R&D application.

At the time that Revenue became aware of the potential fraud, Revenue's Bureau of Audits,
Bureau of Criminal Tax Investigations and the Pass-Through Business Office collaborated on
analysis to determine if any other fraud existed in the program. Revenue began coordinating
outreach and requesting additional documentation from certain entities that were determined to
be of higher risk. This risk assessment and outreach continues today as current year applications
are being received.

These efforts are supported by the updated R&D application process that was implemented in time for review of 2018 submissions. The R&D application became paperless in the summer of 2018 and several edits and cross-checks were built into the new online application system. These edits and cross-checks have been used to identify additional information that must be submitted by applicants in order to corroborate information being reported in the application itself.

While Revenue concurs with the substance of the Grand Jury's recommendations, it should be noted that current resource levels prevent Revenue from requesting corroborating documentation from all of the nearly 1,400 applicants given that Revenue only has 90 days to review the applications and award the credits. This would be a challenge even if the review deadline is

extended as proposed in Recommendation 3. Therefore, under these constraints, Revenue will continue to perform risk assessments and leverage the electronic application process to identify individual applicants that merit further review.

### DCED Response:

DCED concurs with the Grand Jury that additional documentation should be reviewed in order to substantiate information provided on the KIZ application.

DCED is now requiring local KIZ coordinators to perform at least one annual site visit and is encouraging coordinators to perform additional, unscheduled site visits as well. The site visits are reliable means of verifying that an applicant is conducting business operations within a KIZ.

While DCED concurs with the substance of the Grand Jury's recommendations, the current 90-day review window (discussed further below) makes it impossible for DCED to request and review corroborating documentation from nearly 300 KIZ applicants. DCED will continue to request additional documentation from businesses it deems high risk and will work closely with the local KIZ coordinators in due diligence efforts.

Additionally, DCED will collaborate with Revenue to formalize an investigatory process for those instances where DCED suspects fraud. DCED and Revenue could jointly develop a form to be submitted to Revenue by DCED in these instances. DCED is cognizant and respectful of Revenue's duty to maintain taxpayer confidentiality. The development of a formalized mechanism for DCED to report suspected fraud to Revenue for further investigation may be a

way to preserve the inviolability of taxpayer confidentiality while safeguarding the integrity of tax credits issued under the KIZ program.

Recommendation 3 – Regulators currently have only 90 days to review R&D and KIZ tax credit applications. That's not enough time for meaningful review, even if agencies were disposed to conduct it. The law should be changed to increase that period so that real checks can be performed.

### Revenue Response:

Revenue concurs with the recommendation of the Grand Jury. A statutory change would be necessary in order to allow Revenue greater than 90 days to review and award the R&D credits. Revenue recommends a period of 180 days to conduct a thorough review of the applications and interact with the applicants in order to ensure that the research and development expenditures can be substantiated, that they occurred in Pennsylvania, and that the applicant is indeed compliant with its state tax obligations.

It should be noted that even with an expanded time period to review applications, there is still no appeal mechanism for the applicant if Revenue should erroneously deny a credit. Conversely, there is also no recapture provision currently in statute to allow Revenue to recoup any tax credits within normal tax enforcement statutory time constraints which have been improperly awarded. Increasing the time period for review and consideration in conjunction with amendments that allow for appeal and recapture, will allow Revenue to more efficiently manage programs and comply with the intent of the General Assembly.

### DCED Response:

DCED concurs with the recommendation of the Grand Jury. A statutory change would be necessary in order to allow DCED greater than 90 days to review and award the KIZ credits.

DCED recommends a period of 120 days to conduct a thorough review of the KIZ applications and interact with the applicants in order to ensure that the KIZ revenues can be substantiated, that revenues were generated in the KIZ, that the applicant is KIZ eligible, and that the applicant is indeed compliant with its state tax obligations. DCED recommends the application deadline be changed to September 1 from September 15 and the KIZ award letters be issued by December 31 rather than December 15.

Recommendation 4—Local KIZ coordinators are intended to be the eyes and ears on the ground to ensure that applicants are actually producing the economic activity the tax credits are designed to encourage. It appears that the coordinators do not understand their role or the significance of it. Coordinators should be required to conduct unscheduled site visits for each applicant. The certificate they submit should be amended to include a statement, under penalty of perjury, that they have gone to the site and verified that the company is in fact in existence and conducting business there. Unscheduled site visits should also be required for R&D tax credits.

### Revenue Response:

Revenue concurs with the substance of the Grand Jury's recommendation. Revenue will consider unscheduled site visits for those entities that present a higher level of risk, such as first-time applicants or entities that claim amounts that do not correlate to business activity, as one part of an enhanced tax credit review process.

Site visits would be conducted in conjunction with the use of other technologies and data resources available to validate the legitimacy of a business at a particular location. This may include additional measures, such as independent audits, or additional requests for independently verified information.

It should be noted that even if a site visit confirms that an entity does exist, and conducts business at a specific location, these facts would not ensure that the research and development expenses being claimed on the credit application are indeed occurring at that site.

### DCED Response:

DCED concurs with the substance of the Grand Jury's recommendation. DCED is currently requiring local KIZ coordinators to perform yearly site visits for KIZ applicants and is encouraging coordinators to perform other, unscheduled site visits. DCED has amended the KIZ coordinator certificate (certificate issued on behalf of an applicant by the KIZ coordinator) to include the date on which the coordinator made the site visit. Furthermore, DCED does request the local KIZ coordinator to perform additional site visits for those entities that DCED determines present a higher level of risk.

DCED hosts an annual conference for KIZ coordinators during which DCED provides updates on changes to the program and discusses best practices. KIZ coordinators are given the opportunity to share any concerns and ask questions of DCED staff and fellow coordinators.

Similarly, DCED has bi-annual conference calls with KIZ coordinators to provide a forum to achieve these important objectives.

During the summer months, DCED staff visits many of the KIZs in an outreach effort to connect with the coordinators and to offer tax credit seminars for interested KIZ companies. Upon request by the KIZ coordinator, DCED staff will mentor the coordinator and will accompany the coordinator during a site visit. Coordinators are encouraged to contact DCED with any questions or concerns they may have about the KIZ program.

To assist KIZ coordinators in the execution of their duties under the program, DCED has developed a statement of work detailing the responsibilities of the KIZ coordinator, including but not limited to, certifying eligibility, performing site visits, maintaining verification documentation, maintaining individual accounts for each KIZ company, zone administration duties, and communicating with KIZ companies (application deadlines, assistance with metric reports, and issuance of a compliance certificate). The statement of work is currently being implemented by DCED. DCED intends on completing the implementation by year's end. Each KIZ coordinator will be required to read, acknowledge, and sign the statement of work.

Recommendation 5 — Tax credit brokers play an integral part in the system, but they are currently completely unregulated, and at least some apparently feel free to traffic in credits that are likely fraudulent. Brokers should be required to be licensed by Pennsylvania authorities in order to take part in tax credit transactions, to submit themselves to the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania courts, to undergo appropriate training, and to certify that they will not participate

in improper transactions but will instead report irregularities. If they assist businesses in preparing tax credit applications, they should be required to sign the form with a declaration like those required of income tax preparers.

### Revenue Response:

Revenue concurs with the recommendation of the Grand Jury. A statutory change would be necessary in order to require brokers to be licensed and regulated. Revenue recommends that these brokers be licensed and regulated by the Department of State. Said licensure may include general competency standards, financial suitability guidelines and background checks.

### DCED Response:

DCED concurs with the recommendation of the Grand Jury. A statutory change would be necessary in order to require brokers to be licensed and regulated. DCED concurs with Revenue's recommendation that these brokers be licensed and regulated by the Department of State with licensure including general competency standards, financial suitability guidelines and background checks.

Recommendation 6 — Add an additional reporting requirement wherein the awardees will be required to submit to the relevant Department (either DOR or DCED) proof in the form of an annual breakdown of how the tax credit was used and/or alternatively, if the credit was sold, how the funds from such sale were used. This information breaking down how the credit or funds were used must also be provided by the tax credit applicant on future tax credit applications seeking an award of credits.

### Revenue Response:

Revenue concurs with the substance of the Grand Jury's recommendation. However, while it may not be difficult for an entity to indicate that a credit was applied against a liability (and for Revenue to verify the same), it will be difficult for an entity to accurately substantiate how it spent amounts received on the sale of the credit.

### DCED Response:

DCED concurs with the substance of the Grand Jury's recommendation. DCED also concurs with Revenue that, while it may not be difficult for an entity to indicate that a credit was applied against a liability (and for Revenue to verify the same), it will be difficult for an entity to accurately substantiate how it spent amounts received on the sale of the credit. DCED suggests amending the KIZ Tax Credit Sales Assignment Application Form to require the entity selling the KIZ tax credit to indicate how it intends to spend the proceeds.