

**WILKES-BARRE CITY
PENNSYLVANIA**



Anthony G. George
Mayor

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RE: Restore Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's aging infrastructure hurts our state's competitiveness, risks public safety, and impacts our citizens' quality of life. The time is right for Pennsylvania to position itself as a leader in the 21st century by investing in critical infrastructure needs that for too long have been neglected.

I write today in support of Restore Pennsylvania, a \$4.5 billion infrastructure investment plan to help catapult Pennsylvania ahead of every state in the country in terms of technology, development, and infrastructure. In addition to rebuilding our commonwealth, Restore Pennsylvania will boost the economy, create jobs, and position Pennsylvania businesses to succeed in the global market. Driven by local input and local needs, the plan would:

- Bridge the digital divide bringing high-speed broadband to the more than 800,000 Pennsylvanians who lack fast, reliable internet.
- Help communities prepare for flooding and severe weather, upgrade flood walls and levees, replace high-hazard dams, and conduct stream restoration and maintenance.
- Establish a disaster relief trust fund to assist individuals who suffer losses that are not compensated by FEMA or other programs
- Upgrade roadways to meet the transportation demands of growing businesses and improve transit systems.
- Enable new environmental projects and new recreational opportunities, including local water quality improvements on farms, and funding for new hiking, biking and trail projects.
- Fund expanded efforts to remove lead and other contaminants such as PFAS throughout the commonwealth.
- Remove dangerous, unsightly blight and return properties to the tax rolls by supporting demolition and renovation funds.

Investing in transportation, flood protection, and expanding high speed internet access is an investment in our city, our commonwealth, our economy, and our families. I fully support the state's plan which brings Pennsylvania infrastructure into the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Mayor Anthony G. George