

April 24, 2019

RE: Restore PA

Members of the Lancaster PA Delegation and General Assembly:

Lancaster City has been highlighted for its thriving downtown, its public/private partnerships that have brought critical projects to fruition, its arts and historical charm as well as making various "lists" – i.e., Forbes Top 10 coolest places to visit. However, as the only 3rd Class city in Pennsylvania under the watchful eye of the EPA as part of a federally mandated consent decree, the fiscal challenge to maintain current levels of public safety, water and sewer upgrades, street repairs *and* stormwater improvements is significant.

We continually seek out grants, look for ways to reduce costs, and otherwise hold the line on our budget, yet it is not enough. We are now pursuing support from the PA Department of Economic Development as part of the Act 47 Early Intervention Program -- a program we hope will soon be renamed! Funding will allow us to take another look at ways that we can reduce expenses, conduct financial forecasting over the next 5-10 years based on property assessments, and project the financial burden to property owners inclusive of taxes and utilities – water, sewer, stormwater – over time. Something, quite frankly, has to give. If we do nothing, our current budget projections have us in the red in just three short years, wiping out our modest reserve of approximately \$10M.

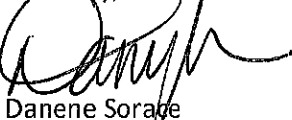
Governor's Wolf's Restore Pennsylvania Initiative, which seeks to invest \$4.5 billion in improvements to Pennsylvania infrastructure would offer welcome relief, especially as it relates to lead abatement in our aged housing stock and stormwater mitigation. Though Restore PA would not offer a long term solution to our budget outlook, it would

a) provide a significant return on investment as it relates to lead poisoning prevention in the way of improved educational outcomes, averted expenses related to health care and incarceration, and increased tax revenue associated with increased life-time earnings; and

b) alleviate some of the burden on property owners by reducing the overall cost projects related to stormwater mitigation.

Therefore, I urge you to support the Restore PA Initiative. Let's realize the full benefit of our natural gas resources in support of Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,



Danene Sorace

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