



**LYCOMING COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

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March 3, 2015

Honorable Gene Yaw
Senate Box 203023
362 Main Capitol Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3023

Honorable Scott Hutchinson
Senate Box 203021
170 Main Capitol Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3021

Honorable John Yudichak
Senate Box 203014
458 Main Capitol Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3014

Honorable Rob Teplitz
Senate Box 203015
15 East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3015

Dear Chairmen Yaw, Yudichak, Hutchinson and Teplitz:

The Lycoming County Department of Public Safety has experienced and witnessed numerous valuable outcomes from Act 13 of 2012.

Lycoming County has used Act 13 funds to improve law enforcement communications/interoperability by providing four municipalities in eastern Lycoming County with funds to purchase and install two mobile repeaters in police cars. These radio repeaters improved officer communications while responding to or working at incidents by allowing the officers hand-held/portable radio signals to be "re-transmitted" via the more powerful mobile radio in each unit to other responders and/or the County's 911 Center.

Area firefighters also have benefited. Impact funds were used to repair the Central Area Fire Chief's Association's (CAFCA) structural fire burn building to permit that facility to again be operational. The facility was out of service waiting funding for repairs, and the nearest operational burn building facility, which is used to train local firefighters, was over an hour away from Williamsport. This had an impact on first-responder readiness and public-safety training. The County's allocation of Act 13 funds assisted in getting the facility back in service and was used for recent firefighter level 1 training.

The County also has dedicated Act 13 funds to support the purchase of fire training simulators and props for use by the two main fire training associations in the County (CAFCA and the Muncy Area Mutual Aid Association). The fire panel and vehicle fire simulators are expected to be in service early this year.

In partnership with Pennsylvania College of Technology, the County's Department of Public Safety attained an agreement for Lycoming County-based emergency service responders and emergency management personnel to attend selected training programs based on the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy's Alternative Energy track. Thanks to impact funds, this was provided at no cost to the individual/organization. Some of these programs were offered at Penn College's Energy Technology Education Center, a facility designed to

support Marcellus Shale and other energy-related emergency responder training and workforce-development programs.

We greatly appreciate the availability of these funds, and hope we can continue to use them to help provide necessary public-safety services.

Sincerely,

John Yingling
Lycoming County Department of Public Safety

cc: members, Senate Environmental Resources & Energy, Senate Local Government