

Butler County Association of Township Officials

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Chairman Senator Gene Yaw

Chairman Senator Scott Hutchinson

Members of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Members of the Senate Local Government Committee

I'm Chuck Stowe President of the Butler County Association of Township Officials. Thank you for the opportunity to share some of the positive impacts of Act 13 in Butler County. Butler County is one of the leading counties in the development of the Marcellus shale gas industries in Western Pennsylvania. Currently there are six gas companies in the county with 242 wells and counting. In 2014, the Act 13 impact fees brought over 2.6 million dollars into the hands of local townships in Butler County.

The 33 townships in Butler County have used the Act 13 impact funds in a number of ways. Some have chipped, paved, resurfaced, and widened their roads. Others have replaced culverts, replaced bridges, and implemented storm water improvements on their roads. Other townships have update equipment such as purchasing graders, trucks, a roller, a high lift, a snow plow, and a tractor with a boom mower. Some are planning road improvement, and bridge replacement projects. Others are planning to purchase new equipment with their Act 13 monies.

One township used their Act 13 money to invest in equipment for their police department. Other townships have invested in parks by expanding existing ones and creating new ones. Some have donated to their volunteer fire companies, and have implemented much needed storm water improvement projects.

Cranberry Township used their money for road resurfacing and maintenance. If the impact fees were eliminated they would have to raise taxes to maintain their 132 miles of roads. Butler Township used their money to implement storm water improvement projects to protect their residents from flooding. Winfield Township used their money to replace a closed bridge. Without the impact money the bridge would have to be closed for a number of years until the township could save enough money to replace the bridge. Mercer Township used their money to widen and pave the narrow Wick Road enabling vehicles to met and pass each other safely. Penn Township is using their money to develop a recreational park with hiking and biking trails for their residents to enjoy. My township, Allegheny Township, purchased a much needed late model road grader that will probable serve the township for the rest of my life time. It was the

biggest purchase that we made in the 34 years that I have served as a township supervisor. We have used the new grader twice this winter to plow the snow back and widen our roadways.

With out the Act13 impact fees many of the projects and purchases would not have happened or at least be put on hold until enough funds could be raised. The impact fees have helped our townships hold the line on local taxes, plan for the future, and have expanded services for our residents.

Residents have come to township meetings to voice their concerns about the Marcellus shale gas industry. They were concerned about the increased truck traffic, damage to the roads, extra police hours, extra noise and lights in the night sky during the drilling process, the flaring of the new gas wells, noise from compressor stations, and new pipe lines crossing their property. The Marcellus Shale Gas Companies have addressed most of the major concerns of our residents and have worked with our municipalities to help solve the problems.

I am also chairman of the Butler County Conservation District. In 2014 the district received \$56,818.18 from Act 13. Our staff has outgrown our current office. We plan to us the money to relocate to a bigger facility.

The Act 13 impact fees have been the icing on the cake to help our communities to better serve their residents. They have been a shot in the arm to many of our smaller municipalities.

I also submitted a survey showing the amounts each township received, number of wells, and how the funds were used. Thank you again for letting me speak to you about some of the projects that have taken place in Butler County.

Sincerely Yours,

Charles O. Stowe
President of Butler County Association of Township Officials.