



General Assembly

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

November 27, 2020

Senator Joe Scarnati
Senate President Pro Tempore

Representative Bryan Cutler
House Speaker

Senator Jake Corman
Senate Republican Leader

Representative Kerry Benninghoff
House Republican Leader

Senator Kim Ward
Senate Transportation Committee, Chair

Representative Tim Hennessey
House Transportation Committee, Chair

Dear Colleagues:

As Pennsylvania continues to deal with the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic around our state, the legislature has a responsibility to work in a bipartisan fashion to repair our struggling economy and ensure that Pennsylvanians have every economic opportunity possible. As you know, we must act now to keep at least 200,000 Pennsylvanians working and off the unemployment rolls by allowing PennDOT the financial flexibility to continue projects already under contract. The time sensitiveness of this opportunity must be recognized, as PennDOT's finances dictate that they will be forced to halt construction on Dec. 1 without legislative action. With that in mind, we, the undersigned, are asking you to agree to bring the legislature back into session on Monday, Nov. 30, for one purpose: to pass legislation giving PennDOT the ability to continue operations and prevent this additional strain on our state's economy and hardship on the hardworking men and women dedicated to keeping our roads safe.

The recently passed budget and accompanying fiscal code does not contain language that would allow PennDOT to take on the new debt necessary to avoid a suspension of hundreds of road projects already under contract, and, in some cases, already under construction. This suspension would put thousands upon thousands of Pennsylvanians out of work for the foreseeable future. In addition, a lack of action by the legislature would leave structurally deficient bridges, unsafe intersections, and deteriorating highways as a threat to all the Pennsylvanians who traverse them.

After a pause in construction at the onset of the pandemic, PennDOT diligently worked to make up for lost time and continue improving the roadways across Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, the decline in revenue caused by COVID-19 has left PennDOT in need of assistance to continue fully operating.

Hopefully, our state is moving out of a period of historic unemployment due to COVID-19. It's simply unconscionable to not take action that could prevent hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians from

losing their jobs. We have until Dec. 1 to find a remedy to this critical problem, and we believe a remedy exists that can be accomplished on the final legislative day of this session by passing a clean amendment to the fiscal code to allow PennDOT the ability to continue construction. We urge your full consideration of this matter and look forward to a resolution that has Pennsylvania's best interests in mind.

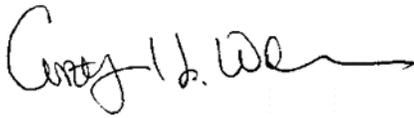
Sincerely,



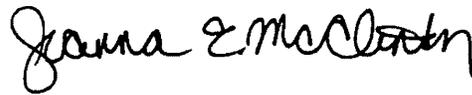
Senator Jay Costa
Senate Democratic Leader



Representative Frank Dermody
House Democratic Leader



Senator Anthony Williams
Senate Democratic Whip



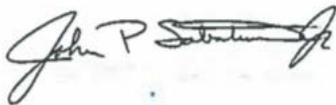
Representative Joanna McClinton
House Democratic Leader-Elect



Senator Vincent Hughes
Senate Appropriations Committee
Democratic Chair



Representative Jordan Harris
House Democratic Whip



Senator John Sabatina
Senate Transportation Committee
Democratic Chair



Representative Matt Bradford
House Appropriations Committee
Democratic Chair



Representative Mike Carroll
House Transportation Committee
Democratic Chair