

11 Stanwix Street, 17th Floor
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222-1312

T: 412.281.4783
F: 412.392.4520
AlleghenyConference.org

June 2, 2016

Dear Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania Senate:

I write to encourage your support for HB 1661, HB 1325, and HB 1394, sponsored by Rep. Mark Mustio, which authorize townships of the first class, second class and boroughs, respectively, to fund storm water management projects without the need to set up a separate authority to take action. We understand these bills will soon be brought up for a vote from the full Senate. Passage of these bills would streamline the storm water and wastewater management process by removing a layer of expense and bureaucracy, making it more efficient as a whole.

The Allegheny Conference on Community Development is a private sector leadership organization with more than 300 regional investors that works in collaboration with public and private sector partners to stimulate economic growth and enhance the quality of life in the ten counties of southwestern Pennsylvania. In pursuit of such goals, The Allegheny Conference has been engaged in an ongoing effort to improve the delivery of storm water and wastewater management in the ALCOSAN service area.

Flooding of streets and private property have plagued our region for decades, and recent incidents have resulted in fatalities. Municipalities would benefit from the ability to charge reasonable fees on property owners to alleviate such incidents, and it would alleviate the pressure to fund such important infrastructure improvements via increased local property taxes.

Requiring these local governments to set up separate authorities, as current legislation does, simply adds an unnecessary hurdle to address this key objective. In addition, permitting elected local officials to take direct action adds a measure of accountability for local taxpayers.

For these reasons, the Allegheny Conference encourages the rapid passage of HB 1661, HB 1325 and HB 1394, and we respectfully ask for your support as well.

Sincerely,



Dennis Yablonsky
Chief Executive Officer
Allegheny Conference on Community Development