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House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

September 22, 2025

COMMITTEES:

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Appropriations
Communications & Technology
Insurance
Policy, Deputy Chair

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Westmoreland County Courthouse
2 North Main Street
Greensburg PA 15601

Dear Commissioners Kertes, Chew and Kopas:

As the 2025-26 budget process drags on, we recognize the financial strain counties are facing. The solution is a House vote away from the Governor's desk, yet House Democrat leadership refuses to call session and bring this bill to the floor.

In August, the Senate passed last year's budget as a short-term plan to immediately release funding for counties, school districts, pre-K centers, hospitals and other critical operations across the commonwealth. The House Democrat majority unanimously voted that bill down in committee, thus prolonging the impasse.

The Senate sent a second flat line budget to the House which would enable funds to flow. On September 10th, the House Appropriations committee passed an interim budget in a unanimous, bipartisan, vote. A solution exists, but House Speaker Joanna McClinton and Majority Leader Matt Bradford refuse to call the House back into session for the final vote.

The truth is, Governor Shapiro's proposed \$51.5 billion dollar budget spends three billion more than the Independent Fiscal Office's (IFO) projection of \$48.3 billion collected in revenue. This unrealistic spending would ultimately lead to future tax increases or cuts in county services. That is exactly what we are fighting to avoid.

We stand firmly against reckless overspending and support the passing of last year's budget to continue uninterrupted delivery of essential public services while new spending is negotiated. We encourage you to highlight the viability of this solution to House leadership and the County Commissioners' Association. Essential services should not be used as leverage to overspend.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Representative Eric Nelson.

Representative Eric Nelson

Handwritten signature of Representative Eric Davanzo.

Representative Eric Davanzo

Handwritten signature of Representative Abby Major.

Representative Abby Major

Handwritten signature of Representative Jill Cooper.

Representative Jill Cooper

Handwritten signature of Representative Brian Rasel.

Representative Brian Rasel