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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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January 24, 2008

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Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization
c/o Thomas P. Zilla, Transportation Planner
Centre Regional Planning Agency
2643 Gateway Drive, Suite #4
State College, PA 16801

Dear Tom and CCMPO Members:

Thank you for expressing your concerns with the current plan to toll I-80. I appreciate your thoughts on this issue.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) recently entered into a 50-year lease agreement for Interstate-80, pursuant to Act 44.

Pursuant to the agreement, the PTC will be responsible for maintaining I-80. The lease restricts using the tolls generated on I-80 for roads and bridges. Funds allocated through Act 44 for public transit agencies in the state would come from other funds and resources from the turnpike, including toll increases and bond issues. In addition, on October 13, 2007, PennDOT and the PTC filed an application with the Federal Highway Administration requesting federal authorization to toll I-80.

I understand the turnpike is planning to schedule a series of public meetings across the I-80 corridor. There will be opportunities for the public to get involved as plans are developed to convert I-80 to a toll road. The public involvement will include the website (www.paturnpike.com/I-80); public meetings; rest area information stations; county/municipal information stations; Legislative Advisory Committee of which I am a member; I-80 Speakers Panel; newsletters; and community events.

Please know that HB 1590, now Act 44 was amended by Representative McCall and contained specific language restructuring the Pa Turnpike Commission and SEPTA. On July 17, 2007, the legislation was again before the House on concurrence in Senate amendments. The Senate amended the provisions inserted by the McCall amendment out, before they returned the bill to the House. My vote for the McCall

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Amendment was a vote to restructure these bureaucracies. At the time of final passage, I voted against HB 1590 because of the Senate amendments.

As your State Representative, I will continue to work to repeal Act 44. However, because repeal is uncertain, I will continue to work with the Governor and the department, Congressman Peterson, and other state legislators along the I-80 corridor who are also members of the Legislative Advisory Committee to find an alternative to the current plan to toll I-80, or have input on how the tolling will be done.

With that said, I suggest that you monitor the website or contact either my Lock Haven or Milesburg office for additional information on attending future meetings in the area on this issue.

Again, thank you for your correspondence. In the meantime, if you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact my office.

Very truly yours,



Mike Hanna

76th District
State Representative

MKH/aml