



Senate of Pennsylvania

Senator Larry Farnese

1st Senatorial District

MEMO

Date: *February 27, 2012*
To: *All Senators*
From: *Senator Lawrence M. Farnese, Jr.*
Subject: *Co-sponsorship Memo – Next-Generation Infrastructure Technologies*

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation called the Technology Infrastructure Investment Act.

Pennsylvania has billions of dollars of aging infrastructure in need of repair. Investing in infrastructure technology development and commercialization will help extend the life of our existing infrastructure, cut down on the exorbitant costs of monitoring our infrastructure and repairs to it in the future, and stimulate small and medium-sized companies at the forefront of evolving technologies.

My proposal would transfer \$8 million in each of the next three fiscal years from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund to the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority (BFTDA) for investments in Pennsylvania-related companies for the development of next-generation infrastructure technology. Some examples of these types of technologies include traffic monitoring and flow control technologies, sensor technologies that detect loads, stress, and cracks in our transportation and other infrastructure systems, as well as wastewater and hazardous waste treatment technologies and power grid monitoring software and hardware.

The funding would be distributed equally between each of the four Ben Franklin Technology Partners (BFTP) in Pennsylvania. The guidelines for businesses applying for funding through the BFTPs would be developed by the Board of Directors of the BFTDA and would ensure that minority-owned, women-owned and other disadvantaged businesses have opportunities to participate in the funding. Administrative costs may not exceed 1% of funding transferred to the BFTPs and an annual report must be provided by BFTDA each year.

Please join me by sponsoring this investment in Pennsylvania's infrastructure and economic development by contacting Brandie Pifer at 7-5662 or bpifer@pasenate.com. Thank you for your consideration.