

**Testimony for the Environmental Resources & Energy Committee
Public Hearing on Storm Water Management
June 17, 1997**

Good morning, Chairman Reber & members of the committee. I am Jeff Haste, Director of the Bureau of Municipal Services in the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Along with me today is Chris Johnston, Special Assistant to Deputy Secretary Rick Peltz. We welcome the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the issue of Storm Water Management.

In September of 1995, the Department of Transportation began to take an in-depth look at this issue, at the request of Representatives Steil and Melio, as well as, Senator Heckler.

The Department acted as the facilitator and convened a working group of interested local governments and state agencies, including our Department and the Department of Environmental Protection. This is a complicated issue that crosses all levels of government, as well as, the private sector. Storm water and runoff management must be able to cross traditional boundaries and political subdivision in order to be effective.

The Department of Transportation will continue to study, design, construct and maintain these drainage facilities located within our road system and its right-of-ways, which are meant to handle normal rainfall runoff. However, it is our conviction that jurisdiction over storm water and runoff management be provided to a bonafide existing entity such as a municipal authority which would be given the responsibility to ensure that a uniform storm water management system is in place. This management system should include the ability to oversee and/or construct, maintain and inspect storm water facilities.

Act 167 of 1978 was a good start to deal with the issues relating to storm water management but issues of responsibility, coordination, on going maintenance inspection and the possibility of regional management have been left unresolved.

The working group, which the Department of Transportation was a member, has reviewed pieces of proposed legislation. The most recent proposal would encourage a regional look at storm water management through the cooperation of municipalities and counties. We would encourage the municipalities and counties to take a more active role in such an approach.

We will continue to support and assist the Department of Environmental Protection and this committee's efforts to improve storm water management in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Chris & I would be happy to answer any questions.