



County of Lackawanna Transit System

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Good afternoon Mr. Chairman:

My name is Bob Fiume and I am here today in my capacity as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association. PPTA is a statewide association comprised of more than 150 members from within the transportation industry, of which 50 are direct transportation providers.

These members cover a broad spectrum of services across the Commonwealth from large urban systems, like SEPTA in Philadelphia, to smaller, more rural agencies such as Forest County Transportation. Together, to the tune of millions of rides per year, we connect communities across the Commonwealth to work, school, recreation, and important medical care.

Every county in Pennsylvania provides various modes of public transportation services. In rural communities, public transportation is often referred to as "life-line" service. In these areas, higher populations of transit dependent riders need access to medical facilities and services to maintain their independence and continued quality of life. Whether a trip is provided in Crawford County, Elk County, or Indiana County, rural trips such as these are of vital importance.

Rural public transportation covers considerable distance, creating long trip times for often frail and aging passengers, which creates unique challenges. Lack of same-day service creates barriers for hospital discharges or episodes of acute illness that are not classified as urgent care.

Challenges also are faced by those seeking gainful employment in these areas as frequently, they lack basic transportation and do not qualify for available assistance or resources.

Finally, as seniors across the Commonwealth attempt to age in place, in homes they love and communities where they have prospered, access to food, access to continued care, and even veterans' services become out of reach.

Pennsylvania is a robust and dynamic leader in the area of Human Services Transportation when considered on a national platform. Every county has a designated transportation provider.

While the challenges are great, we look forward to continuing to work with you as we connect communities across the Commonwealth. PPTA thanks you for your support of Act 89, and we welcome the opportunity to engage in this incredibly important dialogue about enhancing transportation service in rural areas, and innovative solutions for the future.

Thank you.