



Borough of Greencastle

60 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET • GREENCASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA 17225-1230 • PHONE (717) 597-7143 • FAX (717) 597-1734

June 5, 2019

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

As Council President for the Borough of Greencastle, Franklin County, Pennsylvania I sincerely write this letter to you requesting your assistance to provide relief in whole or part to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) and Chesapeake Bay Implementation Plan. As requirements are structured, there is heavy emphasis on reduction of sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus which are generated primarily by farmlands, not a 1.6 square mile borough. Please consider applying a factor to reduce requirements for boroughs like Greencastle.

This past Thursday, May 30, 2019 the Borough Council approved the establishment of a Borough Storm Sewer Utility. The only reason we created a Storm Water Utility was because legally we cannot raise property taxes high enough (above 30 mils) to generate sufficient revenue to cover MS4 costs. Now the citizens and businesses of my community face the ugly reality of how to pay MS4 service fees. Many have told me their intentions are to leave town. I predict falling property values and abandoned properties. On the other hand, had we not approved the creation of a Storm Sewer Utility we face major fines imposed by the PADEP for non-compliance which could result in municipal insolvency. This scenario is unconscionable to me.

My beloved town is damned if we do or damned if we don't with major economic impacts on one-hand or steep fines on the other. I voted to approve the MS4 Storm Sewer Utility because I have faith not only my town but also in you that you will hear my plea for assistance to provide relief so we can cut the programs costs and thereby stave off long-term blight.

I read that Maryland Governor Hogan just sent a letter to Harrisburg stating in essence that PA needs to do more regarding the Chesapeake Bay. I believe we are doing too much already as the reports I have read show that the Bay is improving, not getting worse. The MS4 money we raise will literally be put into the ground to restore stream banks, money better used to fight the drug crisis that is now enveloping our town (we just recently had another person die of a drug over dose). This year we approved hiring two additional police officers. Now with approval of MS4 service fees, we are forced to relook at police staffing as it is the largest single discretionary budget item. We need police to stem the scourge of drugs, but MS4 is consuming monies for our department. This reality is gut-wrenching to me and my beloved town.

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I understand that you have a tough job, but yours is no tougher than mine so we need to hang in there and do the right thing. I give you what I ask of my citizens for me – to pray for me as I pray for you that God's wisdom will be made known to us as we faithfully fulfill our duties to our citizens.

Please have your representative contact me through the Assistant Borough Manager, Ms. Lorraine Hohl. She can be reached at 717-597-7143 or via email at lhohl@greencastlepa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Miller", written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Steve Miller
Borough Council President
232 Moss Spring Avenue
Greencastle, PA 17225