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STATE SENATOR  
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## Senate of Pennsylvania

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January 29, 2020

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

Re: Budget Funding for Kittanning Pike

Dear Governor Wolf,

In the district I represent, residents who live on Kittanning Pike in O'Hara Township know better than anyone that "one hundred year floods" are occurring much more regularly. Kittanning Pike is a state road (Route 1003) that directly serves nearly 100 homes and feeds into Sharpsburg. Flash floods turn this valley road into a river during heavy rains. The current drainage systems and aging infrastructure simply cannot withstand these kinds of events, which are now happening multiple times a year. As a result, a massive sinkhole has opened in a yard of a home adjacent to the road. Because the sinkhole is getting bigger, PennDOT District 11 has shut down half of the roadway out of safety concerns. There are other glaring indicators that the infrastructure is failing at a notable rate, including smaller sinkholes opening in adjacent yards.

The PennDOT District 11 leadership team envisions solving this problem by partnering with O'Hara Township. The municipality would build stormwater detention facilities upstream and PennDOT would repair the culverts under the road. It's encouraging that we have the knowledge to fix this problem, but it's unfunded. My office has engaged with stakeholders extensively on this situation and it's estimated that it would cost between \$15-20 million to fix this problem. I'm requesting that the upcoming budget include money for this emergency.

The situation in Kittanning Pike falls through the cracks. The infrastructure needs are too great for the municipality to afford through its annual budget or bonding. District 11 can't spare the funds as its budget is stretched thin serving other needs throughout the County. The status quo threatens the safety of residents, the economies of O'Hara and Sharpsburg, and the environment. In addition to the homes, Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Department sits on Kittanning Pike, Kerr Elementary School sits

up the road, and emergency responders from Seneca and Foxwall EMS use this corridor for emergency response. District 11's plan would help this area adapt to and withstand severe weather events.

There are proposals out there, such as Restore PA or a federal infrastructure bill, that could pay for a project like this—in fact, this kind of scenario is a perfect example of why we need these funds. While I am supportive of those kinds of solutions, I'm concerned that it could be a long time before money will materialize. That's why I'm requesting help in the 2020-2021 Budget for additional funding to District 11 to help O'Hara Township, Sharpsburg, and nearby residents of Allegheny County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lindsey M. Williams". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lindsey M. Williams  
38<sup>th</sup> Senate District