



Phone: 412.678.2450 Fax: 412.678.2451

monyoughchamber.com

Senate Transportation Committee
Thursday, May 30, 2013, 11:00
CCAC, Boyce Campus Auditorium
Testimony from Maury Burgwin
President, Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce

Chairman Rafferty, Senator Brewster and members of the Senate Transportation Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to appear before the Senate Transportation Committee on the issue of transportation funding through Senate Bill #1 and the Mon Fayette Expressway. I am President of the Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce which represents approximately 300 businesses in 36 Mon Valley communities along the Monongahela River from Elizabeth to Homestead.

The Chamber's history dates back over 100 years and we have always been an advocate for the completion of the Mon Fayette Expressway. I am here today to express our support of passage of Senate Bill #1.

As we say in our Mission Statement: The Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to sustaining and expanding the region's prosperity by uniting business and community. This is why we are here today!

We are here to discuss the opportunities that SB #1 presents for the Mon Valley and beyond. In my work with the chamber over the last three years, I have come to know that the people here in the valley are a diligent and hard working breed and that our public servants care deeply about our region's prosperity.

The single most important economic development issue for our region is completion of Mon-Fayette from Route 51 to Interstate 376.

Here is why this project is so important to the economic vitality of the Greater Mon Valley. This project will spur massive new business investment in our Mon Valley by improving access to nine major developable sites along the Monongahela containing over 800 acres of commercial/industrial real estate.

The approved route for the expressway north from RT 51 in Large, PA will provide direct highway access to 1600 manufacturing and related firms that employ over 22,000 people. Some of the notable firms along this route are US Steel Irvin

Works, National Tube and the Clairton Coke Works which is largest coke producer in the United States. Other companies in the region include major suppliers to the resurging gas and oil industries such as Dura Bond and CP Industries, and the largest supplier of Nuclear Propulsion equipment to the Navy, Bechtel Bettis.

With direct access to highways you have companies such as Kennywood who is poised to invest millions of dollars to significantly expand their holdings with a hotel and vastly expanded park attractions. Direct access to the highway would make Kennywood a national destination.

A major underutilized asset unique to our Mon Valley region is the Allegheny County Airport in West Mifflin with its 6500 foot runway. This airport is the seventh busiest airport in Pennsylvania. The number of operations (75,000 takeoffs and landings per year) outpaces several airports that handle commercial or scheduled flights in Pennsylvania.

According to a McComick Taylor technical memorandum 71% of responding firms said they will use the Expressway. 25% of the respondents said they would hire additional employees. According to the SPC the expressway would reduce traffic on

route 51 by 25% and likewise reduce traffic on neighborhood streets by up to 40%.

The expressway also would have multimodal benefits for mass transit. The Mon Fayette can be directly linked to the Martin Luther King Busway giving the citizens of the Mon Valley and Monroeville direct limited access transit into Pittsburgh.

The synergy of our existing rail and river transportation with new highway access would position the Mon Valley for new prosperity, becoming a hub for new business development, jobs and intermodal commerce. This new investment and development would promote community redevelopment in 47 communities.

Transportation funding creates jobs, with engineering and design jobs immediately, leading to both construction jobs and manufacturing jobs throughout the construction supply chain. And, at the end of a project, there is a transportation enhancement that improves the economic competitiveness of the Commonwealth and leads to economic growth and more jobs.

For the record, I am submitting an email petition sent to our membership asking for support of passage of Senate Bill #1 with 58 signatures including unanimous support from the Mon Yough Area Chamber Board of Directors.

On behalf of Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce and the people and communities of the greater Mon Valley, I thank you for the chance to provide this testimony and welcome any questions.

## **MYAC Board of Directors and Staff**

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#### Staff:

Maury Burgwin, President Candy Barker, Administrative Director Cassandra Studeny, Intern

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### 2013 Annual Legislative Breakfast

#### Key Note Speaker:



Kurt J. Myers
Deputy Secretary for Safety Administration, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Our Master of Ceremonies is Jon Delano, KDKA-TV, Money & Politics Editor. Breakfast Sponsored by: Bob Macey, County Councilman, Dist 9.

## Panelists:

Senator Jim Brewster, 45th District
Senator Jay Costa, 43rd District
State Representative Marc Gergely, 35th District
State Representative Bill Kortz, 38th District
Nate Nevala for Congressman Tim Murphy, 18th District
Jeffrey Schaffer for Congressman Mike Doyle, 14th District

#### **MYAC Government Affairs Committee**

Bob Macey, Chairman Renee Clark, Ph.D Robert Haramia Philip Scolieri Carolyn Hall John Palyo Maury Burgwin

# **Our Attendees**

Regina Abel
Small Business Administration
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Steve Atwood
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Paul Ballint
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Joe Ballins
Borough of Munhalt
Candry Barker
Mon Yough Area Chamber of
Commerce
Robert Baum
Wilson Baum Agency, Inc.
Jamine Buxter
Allegheny Internetional Unit
Greg Hedman
Pennsylvenia Tumpike Cummission
Howard Bedmar
Chuck Bennett
Fine Cannowavelth Rauk
Diane Blanchi
Business Eponanion Enterprises
Scott Biddle
Northwest Savings Bank
Beverly Blanck
Patricia Bluett
Boys & Oirla Clobs of Westem PA
Raymond Bodmar
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Kevin Boltand
James Brewster
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Dev Conner
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David Coplan
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Frank Cortazzo
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Joseph Covelli
Covelli Law Olimity. Jr.
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Ken Davies
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Dan Davies
Stelly and Loy, Inc.
Jon Delano
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Greg Erosenko
Mayor of Monoceville
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Boxough of Homeated
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U.S. Senate Office
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Paul Fisher
Borough of Western PA
Paul Fisher
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Rich Fitzgeruld
Allegheny County Executive
Turn Fox
Petropivania Tumpite Commission
Dan Friedman
Enterprise Rent a Car
Petr Turnweln
Mont Gallin
Borough of Munhall
Ray Garzoffalo
Dollar Baik
Marti Gastel
Dorolly's Cundees
Hobert Castel
Equinox Securities
Vince Gastgeh
Alleghuny County Airport Authority
Marte Gergely
PA State Representative, 35th District
Munica Glowinski
Twin Rivers Council of Governments
John Cruhan
Pittologh Institute of Aeronautics
Jue Grutts
Southwestern Pennsylvania Comm
Jen Gronger
PA Dept. of Transpoctation
David Greer
Iron Works Lovel S
Carol Gross
Mon Yough Community Services
Jon Chall
Gall Hagofsky
Springhtill Sultes - West Miffilip

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Elderrest Kursing Center
Robert Harramin
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Monoeville Chamber of Commerce
Robert Johnson
Governor's Southwest Regional Office
Matt Just
Cement Matons local 328
Brian Kamauf
Dorough of West Miffill
Cindy Keeley
He Daily News
Chris Kelly
Borough of West Miffill
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Camegic Library of McKespott
Bill Kinger
PA One Call System, Inc
Joe Kirlk
Mow Vatley Progress Council
Bill Korgez
PA State Repesentative 39th District
Phillip Krivneck
City of Doquesne
Luc Kuklas
Dunne Morris Government Strategies
John Lausio
Eramet North America
Richard Lattinazi
City of Clairton
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Michael Miapstone
Madedil & Reed Inc.

David Marks
PA Gas Matekeling LLC
Sarrah McChan
Alleghray Intermediate Unit
Dennis McManus
Greater Pah. Community Food Bank
Judith McNeil
Riccaide Center, fin
Innovation/Diversity Dustiness
Joan Mills
Alleghray County Child Advocacy
Chir.
Sarrah Morgan
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Kurt Myers
PA Dept, of Transportation
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Rachel Scherich
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State Form Insurance
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David Shaw
Alicebray County Airport Authority
Dennia Simon
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UPMC
Rich Stantizzo
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Chuck Starrett
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Karthy Stefani
Gerrie Stevenson
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# **Editorials**

# Let's pass a Transportation funding plan that does the job!

Underinvestment in transportation over decades has resulted in a crisis for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. One only needs to refer to the Governor's own commission on transportation to understand the depth of the crisis we face. The Pennsylvania Transportation Funding Advisory Commission Report (TFAC) documented \$3.5 billion of unmet annual transportation needs and called for an additional \$2.5 billion annual investment to address highway, bridge, and transit needs.

Let's remember that Governor Corbett was elected because he believed in limited government and fiscal restraint. He has not changed his tune. As a result of the work of his commission on transportation, the Governor now clearly understands that the transportation crisis we face is real.

The Governor's plan for transportation funding is an excellent first step. His leadership on this issue is to be commended. In year five, the plan will finally reach its maximum level of funding of \$1.8 billion per year – costing the average driver just 43 cents more per week in transportation taxes and fees. But, we can and must do more to ensure safe highways and bridges as well as construction of new highway projects essential for economic development.

For the Mon Valley region, a robust transportation funding plan would repair numerous unsafe bridges and crumbling roads. A higher level of funding would also provide a better opportunity to advance the currently stalled PA Route 51 to I-376 Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway. The Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway is the single most important economic development project for the Mon Valley. Completing the twenty-four mile Allegheny County Expressway section would provide access to Mon Valley brownfield development sites and communities as well as addressing traffic congestion on the Parkway East.

The entire rationale for the entire Expressway network was built on the need to develop a modern highway system to address the collapse of the steel industry decades ago. With the completion of a bridge over the Monongahela River in August 2012, sixty miles of the Expressway from I-68 in West Virginia to Route 51 in Pennsylvania is now opened for traffic. It's time we focused on completing the section of the Expressway in the region that still suffers from the collapse of basic industry.

Let's encourage our local legislators and our Governor to pass a transportation funding plan with sufficient funding that will addresses our transportation crisis and provide for completion of the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway.





Maury Burgwin, President, Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce

# Call me crazy – but it's time to complete the Mon Valley Expressway.

Sure. I know all the reasons why it shouldn't be done. Critics say that the nearly \$4 billion dollars estimated to be needed for completion of the final leg of the Expressway – which would result in linking the City of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh International Airport, Eastern suburbs, and Fayette region all the way to Morgantown – is too expensive. Well – it certainly is more expensive now than it would have been if it had been completed in the 1950s when it was first proposed. Or, in the 1980s when it was clear that the region needed a big economic boost to help it recover from Big Steel's demise. But in the future, the project will bring a return on investment to many communities along the Monongahela River and beyond – and this ROI must be factored in when determining costs. And, let's face it, the construction costs aren't going to get any cheaper.

Then too, critics say the road just isn't used that much. I don't get to use the word "feckless" often, but here it is! Of course the road won't be used nearly as much until it connects to Oakland and the Airport. Data collected in 2008 is still often taken as an indication that the road is not "popular" – but that data does not take into consideration usage since the completion of the Uniontown to Brownsville segment, let alone give reasonable expectations of the usage when the road finally links to Oakland.

One can certainly empathize with those who express concern about the possible pollution any roadway may bring. Yet – this is not a problem specific to the Mon Valley Expressway – but to highway driving in general. The answer to the problem can't be that we only allow rural (unpopulated) communities to connect via highways. Not every commuter can ride their bike from Morgantown to Downtown. Many options for greener transportation must be explored and implemented – but locking the Mon Valley into a roadway system that is inadequate and obsolete exacts a penalty from Mon Valley residents which is not required of residents in the North and South of Allegheny County – or of other prosperous regions in the state and nation. Governor Corbett has suggested a gas tax in order to fund road and bridge repair. The Commonwealth needs both repair and new construction to remain a viable business attraction. John Horsley, former executive director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, has recommended a percentage sales tax on fuels. Perhaps the Commonwealth should explore such an option. We cannot continue to underfund transportation – and to place the burden of road-building solely on future generations. This cost-shifting is even more burdensome than taxation – because a crumbling and archaic infrastructure exacts an additional cost by stifling economic growth, and negatively impacting standards of living for communities and citizens alike.

The truth is that the value of the Mon Valley Expressway cannot be understood as long as we view it merely as a road—and not what it is—both a historic and future corridor. The corridor of the Mon Valley exists today as a hodgepodge of communities that have learned through hard times that working together brings results for all. The Mon Valley Expressway was envisioned as making this corridor visible, navigable, and viable—with the goal being linking together university communities in Pittsburgh with the university community in Morgantown—in the hope of sparking a technical corridor that would be attractive to the bio-tech, energy, robotics, and other technical and scientific businesses—as well as others. Of course—merely building a road does not create a Corridor—planning, vision, and concerted efforts must be exerted as well. But—the road lays the foundation and makes the corridor viable and attractive. We have already seen new business arise along the existing roadway—even without the crucial Pittsburgh connection.

Ironically, while the ebbing steel and energy sectors were originally among the reasons the Mon Valley Expressway was begun in earnest the 1980s, the re-emergence of these sectors is the very reason the roadway must be completed now. For the expanded Clairton Coke works, new and revamped tubing facilities, and other related products and services manufactured or provided in our region, time to market is a critical component. We cannot expect these industries to flourish here if, for example, trucks laden with newly minted tubes must wend their way around small towns on tattered two lane roads.

An example of where road meets technological development is, of course the Baltimore-Washington Corridor – which has seen explosive investment in technical businesses. This means employment. There is no reason a similar corridor cannot happen here – and it will – if we let it.



Marti Gastel is a member of the Board of Directors of the Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce and the owner of Dorothy's Candies of White Oak. (www.dorothyscandies.com)

# Call for Support for Passage of PA Senate Bill #1 & Mon Fayette Expressway

2 messages

Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce< director@monyoughchamber.com> Reply-To: director@monyoughchamber.com To: director@monyoughchamber.com

Thu, May 23, 2013 at 11:35

# Call for Support for Passage of PA Senate Bill #1 and completion of Mon Fayette Expressway

MON YOUGH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Dear Members:

For the first time in fifteen years, comprehensive transportation legislation has been introduced in the State Senate. This legislation includes funding to the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission for Act 61 projects including the Mon Fayette Expressway.

We as a Chamber believe that the single most important economic development issue for our region is completion of Mon-Fayette from Route 51 to Interstate 376. This will spur massive new business investment in our Mon Valley by improving access to nine major developable sites along the Monongahela.

Chamber President, Maury Burgwin has been invited to testify at a PA Senate Transportation Committee hosted by Senator James Brewster next Thursday at the CCAC Boyce Campus Auditorium at 11:30 AM.

We are in support of Senate Bill #1 and applaud the leadership of the Senate Transportation Committee for moving this important legislation forward to the full Senate.

As our Mission Statement says: The Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to sustaining and expanding the region's prosperity by uniting business and community.

We want to send a broad community based message to our leadership in Harrisburg. Therefore we ask you to sign this electronic petition stating that you support Senate Bill #1 and the opportunity it will create to complete the Mon Fayette Expressway.

Link to register your support.

Event: Support For PA Senate Bill #1 and Mon Fayette Expressway, 05/30/13

Each row in this report represents an attendee. If there are multple attendees per transaction, this will not match up to the transactions (click on 'edit' from the event registration menu to view transactions)

Attendee Count: 58

Name / Organization	Address	Phone/Email	Package / Att. Subtot. / <u>Date</u>	Inv. / <u>Pmt-</u> <u>Meth</u> / Inv Amt / <u>Paid?</u> /
Barker, Candy Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce secretary	201 Lysle Blvd McKeesport, PA 15132	W: 412-678-2450 candy44005@comcast.net	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	<u>Barker, Candy</u>
Shaw, David Allegheny County Airport Authority Director - Allegheny County Airport	PO Box 12370 Pittsburgh, PA 15231	W: 412-472-3500 F: 412-472-3636 dshaw@pitairport.com	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	Shaw, David
gross, carol	500 Walnut St McKeesport, PA 15132	grosscr@mycs.org	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	gross, carol
Mendola, Jeffrey Waddell & Reed Managing Principal	2790 Mosside Blvd Monroeville, PA 15146	W: 412-858-9090x101 F: 412-856-8433 jsmendola@wradvisors.com	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	<u>Mendola,</u> Jeffrey
Gastel, Marti Dorothy's Candies Owner	1228 Long Run Road White Oak, PA 15131-2035	W: 412-678-2723 F: 412-678-1750 marti@dorothyscandies.com	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	Gastel, Marti
Gastel, Robert Dorothy's Candles Owner	1228 Long Run Road White Oak, PA 15131-2035	W: 412-678-2723 F: 412-678-1750 marti@dorothyscandies.com	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	Gastel, Marti
Denning, Chuck Embellish Images by CSDI Owner	11380 Rt. 30 N. Huntingdon, PA 15642	W: 724-863-4104 chuck@csdistore.com	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	Denning, Chuck
Haramia, Robert Harwil Enterprises President	781 Van Kirk St P. O. Box 473 Clairton, PA 15025-0473	W: 412-253-5233 F: 412-533-1571 phkharamia@hotmail.com	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	<u>Haramia,</u> <u>Robert</u>
Croushore, Ed.D., Linda The Consortium for Public Education Executive Director	410 Ninth Street McKeesport, PA 15132	W: 412-678-9215  croushore@tcfpe.org	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	<u>Croushore,</u> <u>Ed.D., Linda</u>
Bell, Sonja	271 Thompsonville Rd Pittsburgh, PA 15317	sonjabell33@yahoo.com	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	<u>Bell, Sonja</u>
Hall, Carolyn Eldercrest Nursing Center NHA Administrator	2600 West Run Road Munhall, PA 15120	W: 412-462-8002 F: 412-462-2113 <u>chall@extendicare.com</u>	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	Hall, Carolyn

Scolieri, Philip Scolieri Law Group, PC	1207 Fifth Ave, Sulte 200 Pittsto	W: 412-765-0546 F: 412-765-2919 pscolieri@scolierilaw.com	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00	Scolleri, Philip
Hartzell, Joseph Borough of Wilmerding Borough Secretary	15219 P.O. Box 8 Wilmerding, PA 15148	W: 412-823-0420 F: 412-823-5828 j.hartzell@wilmerdingboro.com	05/23/13 (PUB)  I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	Hartzell, Joseph
Marks, David PA Gas Marketing LLC Manager	1014 Kennedy Ave Duquesne, PA 15110	W: 412-554-7746 david.marks@pagasmarketing.com	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	Marks, David
Borres, Brian Buffalo Wild Wings General Manager	9996 Mountain View Drive west mifflin, PA 15122	W: 4126533460 brian.borres@amail.com	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	Borres, Brian
Baum, Robert Wilson Baum Agency, Inc. Broker/Owner	314 Long Run Road McKeesport, PA 15132-7491	W: 412-751-2200 F: 412-751-2207 rwbaum@wilsonbaum.com	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	Baum, Robert
Capozzolo, Victor Huntington National Bank SVP & Regional Development Director	The Grant Building 310 Grant Streeet Pittsburgh, PA 15219	W: 412-227-4852 victor.capozzolo@huntington.com	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	<u>Capozzolo,</u> <u>Victor</u>
Urbassik, Mark KU Resources, Inc.	22 South Linden Street Duquesne, PA 15110	W: 412-469-9331 F: 412-469-9336 murbassik@kuresources.com	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	<u>Urbassik, Mark</u>
McCutcheon, Harold KU Resources.com Chief Engineer	4312 New Texas Road Pittsburgh, PA 15239	W: 412-469-9331 F: 412-469-9336 hpmccut@kuresources.com	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	<u>McCutcheon,</u> <u>Harold</u>
Peterson, Karen wilmerding council councilperson	531 Marguerite wilmerding, PA 15148	W: 4129796290 <u>karie57@AOL.com</u>	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	Peterson, Karen
MASSARELLI, RHONDA	5004 BAHAMA DRIVE PITTSBURGH, PA 15239	rmassarelli@kuresources.com	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	MASSARELLI, RHONDA
Tachoir, Kathy Tachoir Auto Body, Inc. Owner	601 12th Street Clairton, PA 15025	W: 412-233-9570 k tachoir@comcast.net	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	<u>Tachoir, Kathy</u>
Tachoir, Roger Tachoir Auto Body, Inc. owner	601 12th Street Clairton, PA 15025	W: 412-233-3196 F: 412-233-7220 k tachoir@comcast.net	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/23/13 (PUB)	<u>Tacholr, Roger</u>
Killmeyer, Wayde Clairton City School District Superintendent of Schools	705 Walnut Ave Clairton, PA 15025	W: 412-233-7090 killmeyerw@clairton.k12.pa.us	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/24/13 (PUB)	<u>Killimeyer,</u> <u>Wayde</u>
Burgwin, Maury Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO	201 Lysle Blvd. McKeesport, PA 15132	W: 412-678-2450 F: 412-678-2451 director@monyoughchamber.com	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/24/13 (PUB)	Burgwin, Maury
Hewes, Karl	2327 Casswell Bethel Park, PA 15102	khewes@kuresources.com	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/24/13 (PUB)	<u>Hewes, Karl</u>

King, David KU Resources, Inc. Project Manager	5650 Mamont Rd Murrysville, PA 15668	H: 7243251511 W: 4124699331 <u>dking@kuresources.com</u>	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/24/13 (PUB)	King, David
Johns, Jason Johns and Associates, P.C. Partner	633 Long Run Road McKeesport, PA 15132	W: 412-751-2770 F: 412-751-2913 ic116@caa.columbia.edu	I support passage of PA Senate Bill #1 0.00 05/24/13 (PUB)	<u>Johns, Jason</u>
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