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Senate of Pennsylvania

June 23, 2008

Honorable Allen D. Biehler PE  
Department of Transportation  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor-Commonwealth Keystone Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Secretary Biehler:

On Monday, June 16, 2008, another young life was taken on Route 322 in Centre County. Twenty-eight year old Sarah Donaldson's car was hit from the rear and pushed into the oncoming lane of traffic where she was killed instantly as another truck, coming in the opposite direction, struck her vehicle. A very regrettable scene, which unfortunately could happen again many times over in the coming months and years.

In 2004, when you announced that you were going to withdraw funding to complete the South Central Centre County Transportation Study and any possible new highway monies for the construction of this final missing link in the Rt. 322 corridor between Harrisburg and State College, **you promised that the Department would undertake a strong commitment to provide an aggressive safety program within this corridor**, not unlike the efforts that were expended in Mifflin and Juniata Counties many years ago when the Narrows area was updated with medium-dividers and other safety improvements that sharply cut down on the traffic fatalities through that section of this same roadway.

The traffic counts continue to escalate and the safety of the motoring public is placed at a high risk as it passes through this rural corridor that is overloaded with large commercial traffic vehicles and commuters alike. Far too much traffic to ignore any longer. While a new roadway is surely many years into the future, we must move now to ensure that the proper safety features needed to protect the public are put into place.

We call on you to exercise your administrative authority to ensure that this dangerous two-lane cart path is given the safety upgrades it needs, now, before we have to write to you again about another person(s) who have lost their lives traversing this very dangerous highway.

Sincerely,

Senator Jake Corman

Representative Kerry Benninghoff