



Pennsylvania State Grange

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March 19, 2017

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MEDIA STATEMENT on Wolf Broadband Initiative

Backdrop to this statement: Today, March 19, 2018, Governor Tom Wolf announced the establishment of the PA Broadband Investment Incentive Program to utilize \$35 million of PennDOT's infrastructure money to upgrade and expand Broadband capacity along roadways, right of ways, intersections, and furthering connections between all of PennDOT's facilities. One goal is to make highways user-friendly for autonomous vehicles as well as for vehicle to vehicle automatic communication capability.

PA State Grange is pleased that Governor Tom Wolf has made an important first step in the drive to provide Broadband access for rural Pennsylvanians. Starting with PennDOT provides a transportation corridor base which hopefully leads to Broadband reaching homes, businesses and farms throughout rural Pennsylvania.

The hope of the PA State Grange is that PennDOT's Broadband enhancement will stimulate business technology investment along those roads and highway corridors to eventually reach all parts of the state. We know that PennDOT is preparing a strategic plan to implement the Broadband Investment Incentive Program. The PA State Grange respectfully suggests that Route 6 along the Northern Tier should be a top priority because this route is the economic lifeline for that region of the state. Hopefully, it can be a technology lifeline too.

The PA State Grange was formed in 1873 to promote the needs of Pennsylvania Agriculture and the interests of Pennsylvania's rural citizens in strengthening local economies, resources and social fabric. **Equal access to Broadband is the number one priority of the PA State Grange.**