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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

March 24, 2016

Chairwoman Gladys Brown
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
400 North Street, Room N-304
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairwoman Brown:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Lock Haven Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and volunteer ambulance services throughout Pennsylvania regarding docket number L-2015-2507592. It is my hope that any changes initiated by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) regarding E-Z Access Transport do not negatively affect rural ambulatory services.

As you probably know, rural ambulance services must do a great deal to remain financially solvent and continue operations. E-Z Access Transport has greatly benefited these companies since it was initiated in 1996 because it provides these companies the opportunity to participate in non-emergency ambulatory transport services in addition to their emergency calls.

Without E-Z Access Transport, many ambulance services would have to greatly reduce their services and staff complement. For example, Lock Haven EMS currently has a staff of 44. Should their business be reduced because of changes to PUC protocol, this would greatly diminish their emergency service capabilities as well.

With all of this in mind, I ask that the PUC review any possible negative effects of ambulatory transportation in rural communities before updating any transportation regulations regarding "filling public demand or need." Local volunteer ambulance companies need to have access to non-emergency revenue in order to remain operational.

Thank you for taking the time to investigate this matter. Should you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my Harrisburg office.

Very truly yours,

MIKE HANNA
76th District
State Representative

MKH/anw

cc: Mr. John Coleman, Commissioner - PUC
Ms. June Perry, Legislative Liaison - PUC
Mr. Gerard Banfill, Chief - Lock Haven EMS

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