

21ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT
SCOTT E. HUTCHINSON

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Senate of Pennsylvania

April 12, 2018

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PA HARDWOODS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Brion Johnson
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority
Room 434 Forum Building
607 South Drive, Harrisburg 17120

COPY

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am writing to **formally** request that you put an **immediate** end to the two loan transactions totaling approximately \$50 million involving Lyme Timber in rural Northwest PA. I believe that there are serious policy concerns regarding making PENNVEST loans at very low interest rates available to a private company to assist them in purchasing vast acreage in Pennsylvania, as well as potential legal questions that cloud these transactions. In addition to the numerous points raised at last week's House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Hearing, I was **shocked** to read in The Derrick newspaper this morning that although it was stated by PENNVEST that local County Planning Commissions (including Venango County where I live) had been contacted about the Lyme Timber Project, most say they were **never contacted at all**, let alone had they expressed support. How misleading!

Since the actual funds have not been transferred out to Lyme Timber and the settlements have not been finalized, I believe it is time to nix this proposal, and reject further deals of similar projects. Basing these transactions on a premise that this "protects those areas from being over developed" shows how out of touch somebody is to think Pennsylvania's Northern Tier is somehow threatened with overdevelopment. Corporate welfare for out of state companies should not override the need for sewer and water infrastructure projects for our poor Pennsylvania communities. If PENNVEST has excess funds, I would rather that our communities can have more favorable terms for their expensive sewer and water infrastructure projects.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott E. Hutchinson".

Scott E. Hutchinson
State Senator, 21st District

CC: Senator Joe Scarnati, President Pro Tempore
Senator Jake Corman, Majority Leader
Senator Pat Browne
Senator Don White
Representative Donna Oberlander
Representative Martin Causer
Representative Eddie Day Pashinski