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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

March 17, 2010

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Robert L. Freeman 

SUBJECT: Land-Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP)
Funding

In the near future, I will be sending a letter requesting that our legislative leaders and the governor increase funding for LUPTAP to at least \$1 million in the 2010-11 fiscal year.

As you know, LUPTAP provides financial assistance to municipalities and counties of the Commonwealth for the purpose of developing and strengthening community planning and implementation efforts. Much of the operating expenses for community planners assigned to the various regions of Pennsylvania are paid for by the LUPTAP budget line item. Therefore, the reduction in LUPTAP funding will affect grants to municipalities for planning efforts, thus reducing the Commonwealth's ability to provide municipalities with technical assistance related to planning, zoning, revitalization, compliance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC), and land development.

I have attached the letter I will be sending to our legislative leaders and the governor for you to review. If you would like to add your signature to the letter, please contact Danielle in my office by e-mail at dbrown@pahouse.net or by telephone at 783-3815.

RLF/blm



General Assembly

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

March 17, 2010

The Honorable Ed Rendell
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Room 225, Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

We are writing to respectfully request your support for restoring the Land-Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP) funding to \$1million, from the current \$375,000.

Good community planning is essential for economic growth, sustainable development, and to protect the overall quality of life. Unfortunately, budget cuts have drastically limited the amount of state funding that our municipalities and counties rely on for community planning and implementation efforts.

In the current fiscal year, funding for the Department of Community and Economic Development's LUPTAP was cut by over 90% from just over \$3.7 million to less than \$400,000. Of this budgeted amount, most will be used for professional services available to municipalities from DCED, with less than \$100,000 being spent on actual grants to our communities.

In the last two years, grants from LUPTAP benefited nearly 1,600 municipalities around the state, many of which funded multi-municipal projects which never would have come to fruition without these critical planning funds. This program has assisted nearly every legislative district in the state.

Continuing to cut LUPTAP funds will hamper Pennsylvania's communities. We need to invest in planning now to lay the groundwork for future economic recovery and development in our communities and to insure that communities have the best land use tools available to them to be able to direct growth in a sustainable and positive way. We need to take a proactive approach on good planning to guarantee the success of Pennsylvania's municipalities.

Therefore, we would be grateful if you could give serious consideration to restoring LUPTAP funding to at least \$1million in the 2010-11 fiscal year. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,