

**FRANK BURNS, MEMBER**  
72ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
535 FAIRFIELD AVENUE  
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 15906  
(814) 536-8400  
FAX: (814) 533-2368

119 S. CENTER STREET  
EBENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 15931  
(814) 472-8021  
FAX: (814) 472-1965

112-A MUNSTER ROAD  
PORTAGE, PENNSYLVANIA 15946  
(814) 736-7339 OR (814) 736-6452  
FAX: (814) 736-3233



**House of Representatives**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
**HARRISBURG**

HARRISBURG OFFICE:  
324 MAIN CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 202072  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2072  
(717) 772-8056  
FAX: (717) 772-9965

**COMMITTEES**

NORTHWEST DELEGATION, CHAIRMAN  
COMMERCE  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
LIQUOR CONTROL  
TOURISM & RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS

January 9, 2018

Mike Kerr & Don Hall

Earlier today I met with representatives from Competitive Power Ventures. They informed me that they are no longer going to pursue the Laurel Ridge windmill project. I am pleased to hear that CPV listened to the voices of our community that were strongly opposed to windmills on the Laurel Ridge.

I continue to stand by my request that the Greater Johnstown Water Authority go back to Court ask the Cambria County Orphans' Court to restore the deed covenants to where they originally stood before the November hearing with Judge Kiniry. This is a big issue for thousands of people, and I believe this restoration would give the community peace of mind. They do not like the way this change in the deed was done or how they were notified. We can do a better job; let's start over from the beginning. I do not want to set up a scenario where the residents of our town have the proverbial sword of Damocles hanging above their head with a constant threat of windmill projects on water authority property. It is time to restore the public trust and confidence here.

I understand the water authority needs funding, but at the same time I want to ensure that we protect the environment, our pristine water, economy, game lands, tourism, etc. I represent the people and the people want us to take a holistic approach to governing. As the water authority continues to go down the road to pursue ways to obtain funding, I ask that they do it in an open and transparent process. The Laurel Ridge is a treasure and it is the people's property. Collectively we all own this treasure, so let's work together on ways to protect it and maximize its value.

I believe that we can preserve our water supply and the Laurel Ridge while still helping the water authority fund needed repairs to the dams. Tomorrow I am meeting with the Democratic Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee to discuss important priorities. I am asking that he and his team become engaged in helping us find additional dollars. The water from the North Fork Dam, via the Greater Johnstown Water Authority, flows and is utilized in several legislative districts. I will be asking my fellow legislators copied on this letter that we begin meeting with the GJWA to discuss funding options. Clearly there is a lot to be done and this is a big lift but the water we drink is the best in the world and we all need to work together to help the GJWA deliver this important community utility. Working to find funding will require team work and will take many years. I would also like to also meet with the state Department of Environmental Protection to see if we can push back the timeline for the needed dam improvements.

My meeting with the Appropriations Chairman is at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow in my Ebensburg office. I would welcome Mr. Kerr or any representative of the authority to this meeting. If the authority cannot make this meeting, we can arrange for another meeting with the Appropriations Chairman in Harrisburg.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Burns", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank Burns  
Representative 72<sup>nd</sup> District

cc:

Senator Wayne Langerholc

Representative Jim Rigby