

March 11, 2019

State representative Brad Roae
Meadville District Office
Downtown Mall
900-920 Water Street
Meadville, PA 16335

Dear State Representative:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors of Richmond Township in Crawford County, I am writing to you regarding Governor Wolf's proposal of a sliding scale per person tax on municipalities that rely exclusively on the State Police for protection. The Board of Supervisors strongly oppose this proposal as it would mandate that Richmond Township initially pay \$11,600 for State Police services based on the 2010 census population of 1450 residents. Richmond Township is a small township with a modest operating budget that would be adversely impacted by this added tax. It is not unreasonable to expect this fee to increase in the future, potentially requiring the township to increase property taxes.

Residents of Richmond Township already pay Pennsylvania state tax as well as one of the highest gasoline taxes in the nation. This gasoline tax was originally set up for road and bridge repairs and maintenance. For several years, Governor Wolf has taken money away from this fund to cover a significant portion of the state police budget. Imposing an additional tax would be very unfair. It would also amount to again throwing money at the problem rather than fixing it. We believe funding for the State Police should be appropriated in the general fund rather than trying to raise money through per capita fees which target smaller municipalities that, through state taxes, are already paying for State Police services.

The Richmond Township Board of Supervisors strongly urge you to oppose this proposed legislation. Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Phillips
Richmond Township Secretary