

*Catherine E. Allen, President
Craig N. Roberts, Vice President
Marino C. Saveri II, Pro Tem
Kenneth L. Brewer, III*

*David G. Houser
James W. Kresge
Bonnie J. LaBar
Harry E. Wyant*

Borough of Bangor

Established 1875

*John A. Brown, Mayor
David J. Ceraul, Esquire, Borough Solicitor
Rick Fisher, Zoning and Codes Officer*

Linda M. Paynter, Borough Clerk

*Nancy L. Jones, Borough Secretary
John W. Kasten, Borough Manager*

May 15, 2013

Senator David G. Argall, Chairman
Senate Urban Affairs & Housing Committee
Senate Box 203029
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3029

RE: Public Hearing / Future of Main & Elm Street Programs

Dear Senator Argall:

I want to thank you, Senator Argall and the entire Committee, for the opportunity afforded me to provide written comment on the effectiveness of the Pennsylvania Main Street and Elm Street programs. As a resident of Carbon County I realize and have witnessed firsthand your many efforts to improve the quality of life in this Commonwealth's smaller communities. I have followed your positive efforts to strengthen and enhance the quality of life for your constituents. As Chair of the Senate Urban Affairs and Housing Committee you and the Committee now have the ability to assist all the municipalities in the Commonwealth concerning the continuation of much needed programs, namely, the Main Street and Elm Street Programs. Simply stated, these programs work! It is impossible to exaggerate the positive results they provide to local municipalities. The Borough of Bangor, Northampton County, has experienced firsthand those benefits.

These programs have leveraged other public funds and, just as important, have leveraged private funds. These programs provide professional expertise that would, otherwise, not be available and affordable to many municipalities. Bangor is currently involved in the process to develop a Historic District. Without the assistance of these programs and the volunteers that willingly participate in the programs, much less would be accomplished with regards to economic development, job retention and job creation. Our program is a regional program. Our program affords us another avenue to cooperate with our neighbors on various projects. It is most refreshing to work in an atmosphere where local governments cooperate for the benefit of all their citizens. We need more such vehicles that promote intergovernmental cooperation, not less.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share these views and it is my fervent plea that a tool of such value to municipalities continues to be funded so as to insure the continuation of the results.

Warmest Regards,
BOROUGH of BANGOR

John W. Kasten
Borough Manager

