

**GUY RESCHENTHALER**  
CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP  
14TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

RULES COMMITTEE

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE



DISTRICT OFFICES:

14 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
WASHINGTON, PA 15301  
(724) 206-4800

5856 ROUTE 981  
LATROBE, PA 15650  
(724) 219-4200

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**342 Cannon House Office Building**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3814**  
**(202) 225-2065**

September 26, 2024

Mr. Mark Compton  
Chief Executive Officer  
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission  
700 S. Eisenhower Blvd.  
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Dear Mr. Compton:

I write regarding the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's (PTC) proposed Allegheny Mountain Realignment Project in Allegheny and Stonycreek Townships, Pennsylvania. Since 2023, my staff and I have engaged with impacted stakeholders and community leaders regarding the proposal. While I understand the need for safety and improvements to the Allegheny Tunnel, PTC's current preferred alternative faces overwhelming local, county, and state government opposition and raises pressing concerns with organizations and community members in the surrounding area.

Additionally, I am deeply concerned that the Gray Cut plan will cost taxpayers and motorists hundreds of millions of dollars more than the no-build alternative. According to the PTC study, the no-build alternative would complete the necessary repairs for the existing tunnel operation, including the updates to the ventilation system, groundwater drainage, and wall surface improvements.

Further, the commission should carefully consider the Gray Cut's potential impact on Somerset County's vital outdoor recreation and tourism industries. According to county officials, the plan would cause a groundwater loss that will negatively impact wetland and water sources. Thousands of businesses, organizations, and communities in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District rely on the Laurel Highlands and its scenery to stimulate our region's economy and foster a sense of community.

Given these concerns, I urge PTC to reconsider alternative plans in collaboration with the local community. It is critical that we do not jeopardize decades of work done by these stakeholders to make Somerset County a beautiful place to live, visit, and do business.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Guy Reschenthaler".

Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress