



House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

February 11, 2020

Chairman  
Standing Committee  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman:

We are writing to personally thank you for your leadership during this term as a committee chair.

With your help, House Republicans have advanced a record number of proposals and are on track for the remainder of the term to have one of the most productive legislative sessions in the past three decades.

As a tenured House member, you are well aware that there are three defining duties of the General Assembly. The first is to *make laws*. The second function is to *appropriate money*.

The third - and equally important task - is to *exercise oversight over the executive agencies* that fall within the jurisdiction of your committee.

Over the past year, the House Republican Caucus has been unified in ensuring that we are fiscally responsible and that we focus funding efforts on programs that have proven or measurable results. We have also passed a number of budget-related reforms to promote greater accountability.

Notwithstanding those efforts, the executive departments have continued to experience cost overruns, sometimes even spending monies on unauthorized programs or services.

Remarkably, while we have enjoyed one of the most robust economic times in modern history, the Administration's supplemental budgetary requests completely eliminate the value of our budget surpluses.

Additionally, as we are all very well aware, agency response times (particularly in permitting or licensing) are woefully inadequate.

Also troubling is the underperformance of some programs and services that are failing to meet their core mission objectives.

As we prepare for very serious discussions on the 2020-21 fiscal year budget, we are inviting all of our committees to develop a plan and use your authority to evaluate, review and make recommendations to promote better effectiveness and efficiencies in our executive departments.

While the Appropriations Committee will be focused on spending, our Standing Committees can assist in helping to identify underperforming programs, poor management, unnecessary delays, regulatory burdens and other deficiencies which are preventing the use of existing tax dollars to be fully utilized to the benefit of the people we serve.

Certainly, as committee chairs, you have the prerogative to manage your committee's activities. We know that many of you have important, substantive agendas that are you are advancing.

It is our hope that as you work through your legislative committee duties that you will seriously consider simultaneously working to evaluate the existing management, structure and results of the departments under your purview.

The House Republican Caucus has been leading the way this legislative term, and we believe with your commitment to this effort, we can continue to make great strides in advancing a well-managed, highly efficient and effective state government.

Again, thank you for your leadership. We look forward to talking at greater length about this, and your ideas, when we meet next.

Sincerely,



BRYAN D. CUTLER  
Majority Leader



STAN SAYLOR  
Appropriations Committee Chairman

cc: House Republican Leadership