The Taxpayers' Budget
Myth vs. Fact

MYTH: You're cutting funding to key budget line items and forcing government agencies to cut programs and services.
FACT: The Taxpayers' Budget **will not** cost one job, compromise one service, close one agency or require any borrowing or increased taxes. These are surplus funds, which are hidden in plain sight. Special funds are included as part of the governor's budget book every year.

MYTH: It's too late. This approach can only be taken at the beginning of the budget process.
FACT: In the past, governors and legislatures have used some special fund surpluses to close budget negotiations. While members of the working group believe in a zero-based budgeting approach, they were encouraged to look for alternative solutions after the House received an unfavorable tax plan. They spent the summer looking for surpluses in the 218 special funds.

MYTH: If this budget is implemented, there will be no money available to honor commitments made by state agencies and special projects.
FACT: Of course, every legal obligation of the state has to be honored. All commitments were reviewed and taken into account when creating the Taxpayers' Budget. If an agency has neglected transparency and failed to disclose its commitments, then the case for additional funding must be made to the administration.

MYTH: You can't cut your way out of a budget deficit.
FACT: The budget deficit is a temporary problem caused by unpaid bills from last fiscal year; therefore, we are proposing a one-time special fund transfer to cover last year's one-time shortfall. We have a responsibility to use these surpluses to balance the budget and pay off last year's deficit before borrowing or raising taxes on working families. This will also ensure all other line items, such as Department of Environmental Protection's and Department of Conservation and Natural Resource's budget, are fully funded so they can continue to do their jobs.

MYTH: Why even try? The Senate and Gov. Tom Wolf won't support this proposal.
FACT: Who wouldn't support a plan that does not result in taxing or borrowing? In fact, Gov. Tom Wolf has already used money from some of these special funds. For example, at the end of August, he transferred $700 million out of the Motor License Fund into the General Fund. The reality is the Senate revenue plan does not have enough votes from Republicans or Democrats to pass. We have faith in our leadership team to close out this budget in a taxpayer-friendly manner by working with our Senate colleagues and Gov. Wolf.