

**RESOLUTION R-2013-91**  
**LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL**

*A Resolution by the Luzerne County Council Urging Pennsylvania Legislators to Adopt Legislation allowing Counties to pass an Optional 1% Sales, Occupancy, and Use Tax (hereinafter "Sales Tax"), which is currently being deliberated in the Pennsylvania Legislature.*

WHEREAS, the County of Luzerne wishes to diversify its revenue stream and find means to enhance its finances by generating revenue independent of Property Taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Legislature has adopted legislation allowing Allegheny and Philadelphia County the ability to provide for a 1% Sales Tax increase to diversify their funding and revenue

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Legislature is currently examining legislation that would allow other Counties the ability to pass an Optional 1% Sales Tax increase, in which the enacting County would receive 50% of the new revenue, the municipality in which the sales tax occurred would receive 40%, and 10% of the new revenue would go into a Cooperative Share Fund for Counties and municipalities to share resources and partner in the purchase of certain items; and

WHEREAS, current legislation under consideration calls for 60% of the County's receipt to be used for Property Tax Relief; and

WHEREAS, a 1% Sales Tax increase would amount to \$15.4 Million dollars in Luzerne County, from which Luzerne County would gain \$7.7 million (50%), of which \$4.62 Million would go to Property Tax Relief, and \$3.08 million would go to the County's General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Legislation currently consideration allows for Counties to use all of the County's received 1% Sales Tax funds in certain situations such as for Debt Relief and Increased Pension Obligations, which are two of Luzerne County's greatest expenses on a yearly basis; and

WHEREAS, Luzerne County Council respectfully requests the Pennsylvania State Legislators and other similarly situated Pennsylvania Counties to advocate for passage of such legislation; and

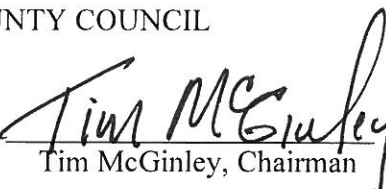
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Luzerne County Council does hereby support the passage of an Optional 1% State Sales Tax Increase for all Pennsylvania Counties and encourages all Pennsylvania State Legislators to move forward with its approval as it will provide revenue diversification for Counties, provide for Property Tax Relief for all Pennsylvania Homeowners, and encourage Counties and Municipalities to regionalize and work together for great economic benefit.

This Resolution shall become effective on December 18, 2013.

ADOPTED at a meeting of the Luzerne County Council held on December 17, 2013.


LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

By:

  
Tim McGinley, Chairman

Attest:

  
Brittany M. Burgess, Clerk of Council

  
Robert C. Lawton, County Manager