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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

March 17, 1997

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The Honorable John Barley
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
245 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Chairman Barley:

The new state budget provides an opportunity for legislative support of cost-effective projects to enhance safety and illumination on Pennsylvania highways.

Raised reflective pavement markers (RPM's) provide improved visibility on roadways, and substantially improve driving comfort and safety for motorists who drive at night and in bad weather. They have been used effectively in many other states for several years. RPM's have now been introduced into Pennsylvania, resulting from legislative direction during the past four years from PennDOT to utilize \$3 million per year for RPM installation.

PennDOT has installed RPM's on much of the state's interstate highway system, and those markers have been well received by motorists on those roads. This work should be continued, and extended to other highways around the state, including high-accident and low-visibility areas. Better illumination of those roadways can help to reduce accident risks. Proper inspection and maintenance of RPM's (to replace reflective lenses) is also needed, to assure that the units provide good visibility and driving guidance to motorists.

Legislative authorization for RPM's in the 97-98 motor license budget will help to assure that this program is fully incorporated into PennDOT's ongoing highway programs. The language should include approval for RPM maintenance, to emphasize the importance of that activity.



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Continued funding for RPM's will help improve visibility and extend safety technology to more highways at reasonable cost, to benefit millions of motorists throughout Pennsylvania. I encourage you to support this funding provision in the new PennDOT budget.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PJZ", written over the typed name.

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER
102nd Legislative District

PJZ/jm