

## LVISN REMARKS

Good afternoon....and thank you for inviting me here today to be a part of this momentous occasion for the Lehigh Valley.

As was stated, I am Representative Paul Semmel....and I represent the 187<sup>th</sup> legislative district which encompasses the area of\_\_\_\_\_. As well, it is my district privilege, to be the majority chairman of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee. This standing committee has direct oversight over the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Management Agency (PEMA).... And oversees the many issues that effect the Commonwealth's emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

One of these issues, which the committee has become quite familiar with "recently" is the "Hazardous Material Emergency Planning and Response Act"....which is better known as Act 165. After several public committee hearings on this issue, we have indeed learned that the reporting of hazardous materials....and the proper cataloging and dissemination of pertain information does enhance the safety factors for all persons involved. Whether it be the working at a facility, or the general public of that local community, it is paramount that there be proper reporting and response procedures in place....thereby assuring a safe workplace and a safe community.

Today....I would like to join my colleagues in applauding the efforts of the Lehigh Valley Industry Safety Network (LVISN) as it conducts its first meeting of the coalition which is committed to promoting chemical safety in the Lehigh Valley.

As we all know, Industries in this day and age are all working harder to become proper stewards of our communities and of our environment on the whole.

The creation of this Lehigh Valley Industry Safety Network is yet another testament on the industries commitment to promoting a safer environment for all of us here today....as well as for our future generations. A network such as this will ensure safe designs of chemical related industrial facilities,....promote worker safety ....and further open up the channels of communications between industries and their neighbors.

Networks such as this are unique, and I would venture to say that today's event will indeed make the ground fertile for other areas of our state to emulate all of the hard work that has been done by key individuals, to make the establishment of this Lehigh Valley Industrial Safety Network reality before us today.

Again, thank you for inviting me here today. I am indeed honored to be a part of what I and many of my legislative colleagues would consider to

be a positive step in the right direction. It is indeed always a good sign to see private industries and private citizens working together towards a common goal, at their own choosing...rather than as the result of a forced government mandate.

The Lehigh Valley Industry Safety Network has a lot to be proud of today, ....and I look forward to working this noble body in the near future.

Thank you.