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House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

May 28, 2003

COMMITTEES:

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DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS
STATE ARMORY BOARD
PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The Honorable Samuel Smith
Majority Leader
Room B32, Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Smith:

This correspondence is to provide my support for maintaining the current level of funding for the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Technology Alliance (PITA) in the 2003-2004 General Fund Budget. The request is for a \$4.0 million appropriation.

PITA is one of the most innovative and successful technology advancement programs in the Commonwealth. It is an alliance between two of Pennsylvania's leading research universities – Lehigh and Carnegie Mellon – and the Commonwealth whose mission is to assist Pennsylvania and its companies in increasing operating efficiency and enhancing economic development. PITA links companies, agencies, faculty and students for the purpose of developing and keeping high paying jobs and thereby encouraging highly educated students to remain in Pennsylvania. The program has had significant impacts for Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. and Agere in the Lehigh Valley.

The PITA program works. The Governor has included PITA as a separate line item for \$2.5 million that was appreciated as recognition of the past success of the Alliance in enhancing the economic environment in the state and in increasing the retention of our brightest students. Consistent funding, at the current \$4.0 million level, will enable PITA to continue with these strong results.

Thank you for your consideration of this request during the difficult current financial situation in Pennsylvania. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions regarding the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Technology Alliance.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul W. Semmel".

PAUL W. SEMMEL
Representative, 187th District

PWS/prh

cc: David Argall, Appropriations Chairman