



February 8, 2017

Dear Members of the House Local Government Committee:

The Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association is the statewide trade association for print and digital news media in Pennsylvania, and counts more than 300 print, digital and related media organizations as members. On behalf of PNA's members, we write to urge an amendment to HB 99, which is scheduled for a vote before this committee today.

As proposed, HB 99 expands a borough's ability to bypass current bidding and public notice requirements "for emergencies." The bill does not define, emergency, however, apparently leaving the determination of what is an emergency up to individual borough councils. We are concerned that this could lead to both the public and potential bidders being left in the dark about a wide range of borough actions – and taxpayer spending – with no advance notice.

In this way, HB 99 would expand a borough's ability to bypass bidding and prior public notice, without appropriate guidance, limitations or standards on what 'emergencies' apply. We believe that the language should be amended to clearly define 'emergency,' both to provide guidance to boroughs and to ensure that the public – and potential bidders – continue to receive advance notice of a borough's contracting and spending plans.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this issue, and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss it with you in more detail. Please contact me at 717-385-0900 or [hollyl@pa-news.org](mailto:hollyl@pa-news.org) if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Holly Lubart  
Director of Government Affairs