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STATE SENATOR
LISA BAKER
20TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



Senate of Pennsylvania

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May 25, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Office of the Governor
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

Pocono Raceway is a highly identifiable and hugely popular regional attraction. The family ownership over several generations has engaged in constructive community participation. During our time in the state Senate, we have been strongly supportive of the entertainment they provide and the significant economic contributions they make.

They, along with nearly every other Pennsylvania enterprise, are confronting and working through the challenges of safely resuming operations. We are concerned that they have been unable to get a "green flag" from state government to host their traditional NASCAR weekend this summer. The deadline for action is rapidly approaching because of the level of preparation necessary.

Officials from Pocono have provided us with the safety plan developed by NASCAR, which has proved sufficient for nearly a dozen other states. This plan has been submitted to the department of health as required and supporting material has been provided.

Most people appreciate that we do not want to precipitously open venues and risk a resurgence of the coronavirus. It seems to us that the unique conditions of auto racing make it easily distinguishable from other professional sports that are or will be seeking state clearance to resume operations.

The converse is that we do not want to forfeit signature, high-profile events through overly cautious indecision or a lack of specifics as to the practical application of emerging state requirements.

This appears to be a good opportunity for the commonwealth to demonstrate that it intends to be a partner and not an obstacle to helping restore the businesses that have made our state so prolific in the travel and tourism industry, a pillar of strength for so many of our communities. Thank you for your attention to this, and your understanding of the urgency for a decision.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Lisa Baker in black ink.

Senator Lisa Baker
20th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Mario M. Scavello in black ink.

Senator Mario Scavello
40th Senatorial District