

Wetzel County Action Group
HC 60 Box 277
New Martinsville

3 January 2008

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
Governor

Commissioner Paul A Mattox, Jr.
West Virginia Division of Highways


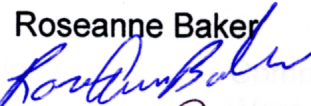




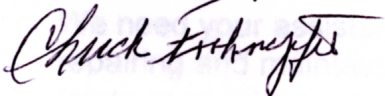
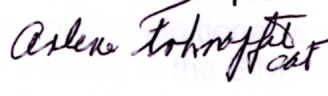
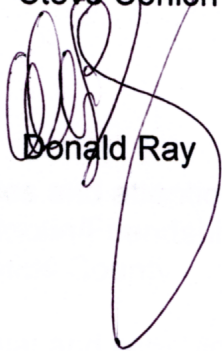
Dear Sirs,

We need your assistance in getting additional resources and attention placed on repairing and maintaining the roads in the Silver Hill/Doolin/Friendship areas (state road 89, county road 3 and feeder roads) of Wetzel County.

These roads were designed and built to carry residential and light farming traffic. As resources to maintain and repair our roads across the state have become more constrained, our local roads have deteriorated to the point of being unsafe even for the routine traffic that uses these roads. This problem has been magnified dramatically in recent months as Chesapeake Energy has begun extensive extraction operations in this area. The roads are now carrying not only the local traffic but large numbers of heavy and oversized trucks used in this company's ongoing operations. With the increased traffic the roads have deteriorated rapidly – they are almost impassable in some areas. They are extremely dangerous during normal conditions and become deadly during inclement weather. Travel on these roads is made even more hazardous by the mix of local and heavy industrial traffic that routinely uses these county roads.

We have addressed our concerns to state and local officials as well as to representatives of Chesapeake. All have been supportive and have indicated a sincere desire to assist us in mitigating the problems we are experiencing. Senator Edgell has requested a meeting with you and Commissioner Mattox to address regulatory changes that need to be addressed in the upcoming legislative session. Chesapeake Energy has made a number of changes in their ongoing operations intended to accommodate us and to ensure the safety of members of our community as well as their operators. All of this is positive however it does not fully address our most significant concern – the lack of required resources to repair and maintain our roads.

We urgently need your assistance in getting additional resources dedicated to this area to repair and to maintain our roads. It is imperative that we improve the local roads to ensure the continued safety of members of our community while Chesapeake conducts operations in our area.

 Bonnie Hall	 Roseanne Baker	 Jim Keeney
 Raymond Renaud	 Marjorie Renaud	 Steve Conlon
 Chuck Frohnappel	 Arlene Frohnappel	 Donald Ray

CC: The Honorable Robert C. Byrd, The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV, The Honorable Alan Mollohan, The Honorable Larry J. Edgell, The Honorable Jeffrey V. Kessler, The Honorable Dave Pethel, Mr Robert W. Whipp District VI, Scott Rotruck Chesapeake Energy Corporation

The Wetzel County Action Group will work to promote the safety of road travel, improve the condition of our roads, and insure adequate maintenance of improved roads. Our current focus will include State Route 89, County Route 3 and their feeder roads.