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I appreciate the opportunity to speak today concerning the storm water fee in Luzerne County. While the intention behind this initiative is commendable, aiming to address critical storm water management issues, including the separation of sanitary and stormwater sewer assets, it has unfortunately evolved into an example of a good idea gone awry.

This fee disproportionately impacts certain residents within our county, placing a significant financial burden on them. Many families are already facing economic challenges, and this additional fee could further strain their budgets. It is essential to recognize that while some residents bear this cost, other areas—even in neighboring states—are not contributing to similar fee structures. This inequity raises serious concerns about fairness and responsibility in managing our shared resources.

To address these issues, it is crucial that we share the burden more equitably among all stakeholders, including local businesses and municipalities. We must explore alternative funding mechanisms that alleviate the financial pressure on residents while still effectively addressing storm water management.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to advocate for reconsideration of the implementation of this fee. Let's work collaboratively to find a solution that ensures equitable contributions from all parties involved while protecting our community and environment. Thank you for your attention.