

Statement by Senator Gene Yaws

STATE OFFICIALS TOUR LYCOMING & SULLIVAN COUNTIES



On April 5th, I joined State Representatives Garth Everett and Tina Pickett, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and the Center for Rural Pennsylvania in hosting Department of Agriculture Secretary George Greig and Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Michael Krancer.

The purpose of this tour was to view the stream and property damage sustained during Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee and to highlight the importance of an improved stream cleaning program in the Commonwealth. It became apparent after the flooding that occurred last September, that a lot of the damage sustained was caused by not having our streams properly cleaned out. Because of this, I wanted the Secretaries to see the devastation first-hand and have a better awareness of the critical need for stream cleaning.

The tour began on Mill Street in Montoursville and headed north to Snyder Farms, along Rt. 87 in Lycoming County, followed by stops at the site of the former Slabtown Bridge and Pier 87 Restaurant.

Other stops included the village of Barbours, Lambert Farms in Sullivan County, the Sonestown Covered Bridge in Sonestown and Frazier Farms, also in Sullivan County along Rt. 220.

The visit was in conjunction with a hearing I held earlier this year with the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, a bipartisan, bicameral legislative service agency of the General Assembly, to discuss stream maintenance and stream bank stabilization.