

Good afternoon honorable senators. My name is Bob Rose. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today as a proponent of Senate Bill 139. Demonstrating The Goshen Township Board of Trustees commitment to cost saving measures while maintaining essential services, they appointed me to serve in a dual role as both the Township Administrator and Chief of Police.

The longest day of my life occurred on July 6, 2022 when an EF2 tornado struck our community without any warning just after 3pm. There wasn't even a tornado watch in effect that day. Our Station 18 Fire Department took a direct hit causing a partial collapse of the building and our nearby Police Department sustained heavy damage too. Thankfully, no lives were lost that day, but the tornado left a trail of destruction 500 yards wide, damaging or destroying 298 homes, businesses, a church, and our schools.

When the tornado warning came out, our staff looked out windows in horror to see the tornado on the ground. Administrative staff made it halfway down the stairs towards our storm shelter before windows exploded. Officers in the police department and firefighters at Station 18 took cover in interior rooms as the twister took its toll.

As soon as the tornado passed, our brave first responders sprang into action, responding to an overwhelming number of emergencies. They worked tirelessly to rescue those in need, one entrapment call after another.

It would be a week before all roads were reopened and most electric was restored.

We developed a plan for a temporary firehouse, purchasing a mobile home that our firefighters and paramedics have operated out of for nearly two years now.

Determining whether Station 18 could be salvaged proved to be time-consuming and expensive. While we did have adequate insurance coverage, insurance will only pay for the rebuild of the partial collapse. The insurance company's decision is purely financial and does not take into consideration the health of first responders. As the station is 42 years old and fails to meet modern safety standards, posing long-term health risks, we arrived at

a decision to demolish what remains and to rebuild to current day safety standards that protect firefighters from deadly hydrocarbons.

We cannot afford a mortgage as our revenue closely matches our operating expenses and any consideration to assume a mortgage would compromise public safety in our growing community. We regularly partner with and provide mutual aid to surrounding communities and counties, so the rebuild of Station 18 is much broader than just emergency services for Goshen Township.

On behalf of the elected officials, residents, schools, and business owners of Goshen Township and beyond, we respectfully ask for your support of SB139. We desperately need to rebuild Station 18 and we need your help to do it. Thank you.

Bob Rose, Township Administrator and Chief of Police