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Auditor General Timothy DeFoor
Department of the Auditor General
229 Finance Building
Harrisburg, Pa 17120-0018

February 9, 2023

Auditor General DeFoor,

I am writing to formally request a forensic audit of Washington County's Local Share Account (LSA) and its process for awarding funding. I make the request because the people of Washington County deserve openness, transparency and accountability in all aspects of state and local government. That is sorely lacking when it comes to the LSA program.

As a freshman lawmaker, I heard from many citizens concerned about the program and what they saw as a lack of fairness in how funds were awarded. I approached the county commissioners to discuss those concerns. Five years later, after numerous right-to-know requests, the county commissioners have refused to address several key concerns:

1. \$10 million in unaccounted funds from the LSA account.
2. The clear conflict of interest that exists when LSA funds are awarded to the organization the LSA's executive director represents.
3. Overall lack of fairness, accountability and transparency in the awarding of LSA funds.

I thank you for the opportunity to meet with Gordon Denlinger, deputy auditor general for audits, and John Hershey, legislative director, to discuss our concerns with the LSA. I also understand the limitations faced by your office in conducting forensic audits without the benefit of subpoena power, an issue I hope to address via legislation in the near future.

Regardless of these limitations, I would appreciate the consideration of your office in conducting an audit of the Washington County LSA program. The program and the people running it need to be held accountable to restore the faith of the citizens in what should be a valuable program to benefit the county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bud Cook".

Bud Cook
50th Legislative District
PA House of Representatives

cc: Gordon Denlinger, Deputy Auditor General for Audits
cc: John Hershey, Legislative Director, Office of PA Auditor General