In response to Gov. Tom Wolf’s budget announcement today, David M. Sanko, executive director of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, issued the following statement. The association represents the 1,454 townships of the second class across Pennsylvania. Townships, in turn, represent more residents — 5.5 million Pennsylvanians — than any other type of political subdivision in the commonwealth and cover 95 percent of the commonwealth’s land mass.

It is unfortunate that some in state government look at local government like an ATM machine instead of a partner in providing services to Pennsylvanians. Rather than controlling costs, their first instinct is to grab more money either through tax increases, fee hikes, or intergovernmental transfers.

This latest scheme to pick the pockets of local governments’ residents in the name of public safety for costs of the state police is nothing more than the 2020 version of robbing Peter to pay Paul. What’s next? Charging to fill potholes?

Funding government is about choices and priorities. We would be happy to participate in conversations on controlling costs like township supervisors have to do every day. We look forward to working with the legislature and administration to make Pennsylvania a safer place to live, work, and raise a family.

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PSATS is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization, whose member townships represents 5.6 million Pennsylvanians, which is more residents than any other type of Pa. municipal government. Townships also cover 95 percent of the commonwealth’s land mass.