Add

Lycoming County Commissioners

48 W. Third St.

Williamsport, PA 17701

1/24/19

Dear Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to help you better understand the value of the proposed bicycle purchase by the County Department of Court Services for participants in the drug rehab program. Although I have NOT been involved in that proposal, when I read the initial concern in the Sun Gazette coverage of your Tuesday Work Session it compels me to offer my TAXPAYER PERSPECTIVE.

I do support that concept for these reasons:

- 1. Bicycles can enable those participants to go to work.
- 2. Bicycles can enable them go buy food and other necessities.
- 3. Bicycling can help them gain improved physical health and thereby perhaps lessen their dependency on drugs.

I do offer the following suggestions:

- 1. Purchase helmets and require participants to always wear them.
- 2. Purchase bikes with lights installed on them (front and rear).
- 3. Require participants to donate some personal time to helping at Bicycle Recycle (a non-profit bike repair and resale service operating in The Pajama Factory). That service will teach participants how to repair their bikes as well as help other folks.
- 4. Check out the option of purchase of used quality bikes from The Bicycle Center in South Williamsport. They are owned and operated by the fourth generation DeVito family which started their bike business in Williamsport in 1937. Rick and Devon DeVito can give your County Staff excellent advice on bike selection and related factors.
- 5. REQUIRE PARTICIPANTS to WEAR HELMETS AND TURN ON THEIR BIKE LIGHTS. This is very important for all of us drivers since we often encounter cyclists riding at night wearing dark clothes and NO LIGHTS. The trauma that you or your wife or Mom will

feel after hitting a dark cyclist with your vehicle will haunt you forever!!

Respectfully submitted,

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Professional Planner

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