



# Boscola Bulletin

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 **LISA BOSCOLA** 18TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

## Senator Lisa Boscola Statement On Governor Shapiro's Budget Address

Let's start with what we all like to see, no tax increases. Most Pennsylvanians are struggling to get by, and the Governor's budget doesn't take more from the pockets of our taxpayers. And, he seeks to invest in making Pennsylvania a leader in attracting businesses, educating our children and easing the burden of school property taxes.

Increasing spending on economic development is always a priority of mine. Over time, Harrisburg has detracted from economic dollars over time. For too long, we have been sitting on the sidelines and not investing enough to grow our economy. Governor Shapiro seeks to change that with a significant increase and a plan to get Pennsylvania back in the economic development game. The Governor's bold \$600 million proposal for economic development, particularly the \$500 million allocated for PA SITES, holds promise for revitalizing legacy industrial areas, something important in the 18th Senatorial District. Also, money put towards driving innovation, through programs with long track records of success like Ben Franklin and others, to build the jobs of tomorrow is smart government.

To build the jobs of tomorrow, we need to make sure we have an educated workforce and that starts in our schools. We all know the Commonwealth Court held our current funding system unconstitutional. Our education funding system needs to be reimagined. We must ensure adequate resources for students while delivering the property tax relief long overdue to homeowners.

The proposed increase in public education funding through our fair funding formula and to address school districts that have been inadequately funded is important. However, we must tie increases to real school property tax relief. The Governor proposes an additional \$236 million for property tax relief, through two different programs. I need to study the impact that has on the homeowners in my district. I say it every year, Pennsylvania homeowners need real meaningful property tax relief. I appreciate that the Governor recognizes that it is a need. Rest assured, I will be advocating strongly to ensure these dollars find their way to the Lehigh Valley to help reduce school property taxes for the residents in my district.

That said, budgets are intricate, and the details matter. I commend the Governor for his collaborative, bipartisan approach thus far and I believe we will see much of the same in budget negotiations to come. While there's much work ahead, I commend the Governor for his vision to forge a stronger Pennsylvania that benefits us all.

## Forest Landowners and Managers Seeking to Treat for Spongy Moth Caterpillars Are Urged to Act Now

By DCNR

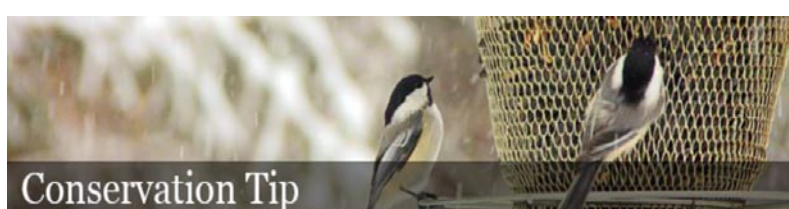
The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is urging forest managers and woodlot owners who are seeking to treat for spongy moth (*lymantria dispar dispar*) caterpillars this spring to begin planning treatment operations now.



"Private forest landowners play a critical role in assuring the overall health of forests in Pennsylvania," State Forester Seth Cassell said. "By opting to treat for spongy moth caterpillars, where necessary, forest stewards across the state can help in the fight against these harmful insects."

Maximum treatment effectiveness is achieved by targeting caterpillars at a specific developmental stage -- a period known as the treatment window -- which generally occurs in May.

With approximately 70 percent of all forest lands in the Commonwealth privately owned, participation is essential in helping to protect trees and forests from spongy moth caterpillar feeding.



### Conservation Tip

By DCNR

It's National Bird Feeding Month, which means it's time to make sure your feeders are stocked! Feeding birds helps them survive cold winter months when a lack of food sources and habitat can cause them hardship.

Here are some feeding tips to help your feathered, backyard neighbors:

When making your own birdseed mix or suet, avoid recipes with very sugary ingredients. Peanut butter mixed with cornmeal is a good choice that will attract a good number of birds and variety of woodpeckers.

Plant native shrubs and trees that provide food and shelter for birds all year long. Providing a mix of store bought birdseed and native plants to snack on will ensure the birds find your feeder faster and keep them there longer.

Set up your feeders at varying heights and distances apart to help birds feel more comfortable sharing the space with other birds.

Feeders bring many different species of birds together which can be an opportunity for diseases and parasites. To help prevent this, clean your birdfeeders at least twice every year using a 10 percent bleach solution and warm water.

Many seed mixtures targeted to a wide diversity of birds contain fillers that most birds don't eat. Buy seed specifically for the birds you want to attract to avoid wasting it and causing a mess under your feeder.

Find more tips for creating a healthy bird habitat in your backyard from the Pennsylvania Audubon Society.



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Join our team of dedicated volunteers and advocates. We are currently seeking volunteers in the following areas:



**Child/Teen Programs**



**Hotline Assistance**

More Information  
[www.turningpointlv.org](http://www.turningpointlv.org)