



March 26, 2025

Dr. Neeli Bendapudi
President, The Pennsylvania State University
201 Old Main
University Park, PA 16802

Dear President Bendapudi,

We are writing to provide input on the pending decision concerning the closure of select Penn State Commonwealth campuses in northeastern Pennsylvania.

While opening a door to individuals at all levels on the socioeconomic ladder, the Scranton campus is, for many, the one opportunity to access the resources of a world-class Penn State education. As leaders of The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, we have witnessed firsthand the value of the university's Scranton campus to students, families, and businesses in our region.

The Scranton campus is vital to northeastern Pennsylvania as we work to attract and retain a talented workforce. As your data shows, through direct employment and operations, the Scranton campus contributes millions of dollars to the local economy, supporting small businesses and professional services across the region.

Additionally, the Scranton campus is uniquely positioned geographically, making it an essential access point for students in Lackawanna County and neighboring eastern and northern Pennsylvania counties. Without this campus, many students from these areas may no longer have a viable option for a Penn State education. As a result, Penn State University Park is likely to lose those legacy students for their junior and senior years, as displaced students may seek out other institutions to complete their degrees.

The leadership, faculty, and staff of the Scranton campus have also established an invaluable relationship with our Chamber and its membership. They actively participate in regional economic development, support the Chamber's entrepreneurship program, open doors for internships with students and our member businesses, engage in impactful regional community projects, expand professional development opportunities through diversity training, and provide broad vision and direction on the role and future of higher education to the Chamber and its multiple affiliate boards of directors.

It should also be noted that recent investments in the Scranton campus's engineering and nursing programs offer unique learning experiences to students in two of the highest-priority job sectors in northeastern Pennsylvania. These programs align with the Chamber's emphasis on economic development in the healthcare, bioscience, technology, and energy sectors.

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Finally, Penn State's commitment to transforming lives through education is embodied in the work and people associated with the Scranton campus. The Chamber leadership pledges its assistance in working toward solutions that preserve the educational and economic impact of Penn State Scranton for future generations.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter.


Sincerely,



Jerry Musheno, Esq. R.Ph.
Chair, The Chamber



Erin Keating, Ed.D.
Vice President, Skills in Scranton



Jennifer Davis
President, SLIBCO



Joe Bonsick
Chair, MetroAction



Amy Hollander
President, LIFE



Eugene Munley
Chair, Leadership Lackawanna

CC: Robert F. Durkin, President, The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Elizabeth Wright, Regional Chancellor, Penn State University
Dr. Tracy Langkilde
Dr. Margo DelliCarpini
Dr. Michael Wade Smith