



News for Immediate Release

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Governor Tom Corbett Announces Flood Prevention Grant for Columbia County

Praised Team Effort to Protect Columbia County Jobs

Harrisburg – Governor Tom Corbett today announced an \$11.9 million Commonwealth Financing Authority Grant to Columbia County for the design and construction of floodwall systems that will help to prevent flooding at two of Bloomsburg’s largest employers.

“For more than 15 years the people of Columbia County have lived with the fear that a major flood could wash out two of their largest employers, taking with them more than 1,000 family-sustaining jobs,” Corbett said. “In less than 12 months our team was able to get this done. It would not have been possible without the hard work of Senator Gordner, Representative Millard, the Columbia County Commissioners and the Bloomsburg Flood Control Authority.”

The grant announced today will be used to construct a steel sheet pile flood wall system for the Autoneum North American plant and a concrete flood wall system to protect the Windsor Foods manufacturing facility. These two companies, which sustained more than \$67 million in damage from Tropical Storm Lee in 2011, represent more than 1,000 jobs in the Bloomsburg area.

The governor visited Autoneum with Senator Gordner, Representative Millard and Columbia County officials during a recent tour of flood recovery efforts in the Northeast. During that visit, Corbett had the opportunity to see the extensive efforts the company has made to protect itself from flooding, such as that experienced during Tropical Storm Lee.

Company executives stressed the need to ensure their customers of their ability to continue operating uninterrupted by extreme weather events or risk losing contracts with their largest clients.

This award from the state will compliment a \$15 million grant from the federal Economic Development Administration and contributions from the companies to construct the flood wall systems for Autoneum and Windsor.

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