

**Curt Topper, Acting Secretary**  
**Department of General Services**  
**Opening Statement**  
**Senate State Government Committee Hearing**  
**May 5, 2015**

Good afternoon Chairman Folmer, Chairman Williams and members of the Senate State Government Committee. It is my pleasure to appear before you today to discuss the exciting challenges ahead for the Pennsylvania Department of General Services.

Before I begin my opening statement, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to meet with all of you over the past few months. I am grateful for the insights and the feedback that you shared with me during those meetings. Although we are not as visible to the general public as some other state agencies, what DGS does has an impact in every legislative district and potentially every community in the Commonwealth. With this in mind, I view the General Assembly as an essential partner in the work of the department and I hope those meetings were just the beginning of what will become a productive ongoing dialog.

I am excited to return to DGS because I know firsthand what an important role the department can play in the necessary effort to transform our state government into a more efficient and effective enterprise. Just as they are for any business facing an increasingly competitive marketplace, the resource constraints on the agencies of the Commonwealth have become a permanent condition.

To provide Schools that Teach, Jobs that Pay, and a Government that Works, we need renewed investment and, as important, we need lasting and transformative change. A "Government that Works" is a government that innovates. We need an ongoing, relentless commitment to innovation.

By Executive Order, Governor Wolf created the Governor's Office of Transformation, Innovation, Management and Efficiency – GO TIME. Along with the Office of Administration, and the Office of the Budget, DGS plays a vital role in this initiative.

We are already off to a great start. By modernizing systems in Public Works, and by reinstating modern commercial best practices for procurement such as strategic sourcing and reverse auctions, we will deliver more than \$100 million in cost savings during the next fiscal year.

Just last week, DGS partnered with the Department of Corrections to run the Commonwealth's first online reverse auction event since 2008, I am pleased to report that it was a big success. Projected annual savings due to this one event are well in excess of \$1 million. Our next auction, for road salt, will be held later this month. We will continue to expand the use of this highly effective negotiating tool throughout the coming year.

Through the GO TIME initiative, we have the opportunity to assess and compare DGS functions with commercial best practices at an enterprise level. We are going to benchmark the

commonwealth's operations in real estate, procurement, construction, facilities management, risk and insurance management with the very best organizations in the commercial world.

We won't allow limited resources to be the reason why we don't have a world-class organization with world-class performance at DGS. Indeed, those limited resources are precisely the reason why we must become world-class.

We have a broad and ambitious agenda for GO TIME and for DGS. It will be a multi-year project. Here is where we will be primarily focused in the short term:

- We will return to strategic sourcing and re-establish the DGS procurement bureau's ability to drive significant cost savings in partnership with the agencies.
- We will improve the commonwealth's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and fairness in state contracting.
- We will develop a more efficient and effective approach for surplus real estate sales.
- We will modernize Public Works.
- We consolidate and modernize mail room operations.

It is a great honor to be nominated as the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of General Services and I look forward to working with all of you to serve the people of Pennsylvania to the best of my ability.

Thank you and I will take your questions.