

Corbett promotes Act 13 impact fees

March 27, 2013

By MATT HUTCHINSON (mhutchinson@sungazette.com) , Williamsport Sun-Gazette

Gov. Tom Corbett made a brief stop Tuesday at the Williamsport Regional Airport to hear from local officials how Act 13 natural gas drilling impact fees are being used in Lycoming County.

The stop here was one of three in the region. The governor toured facilities in State College and Pleasant Gap before making the trip to the local airport, where administrators showed him plans for a new terminal building that will use \$1 million of Act 13 funding.

Corbett also heard from John Grado, the city's director of community and economic development and city engineer, about housing projects that would add more than 100 units to the city's inventory and upgrade existing properties. About \$570,000 in Act 13 funding is expected to be used for those projects.

The governor said natural gas drilling has created thousands of direct jobs in Pennsylvania while generating more than \$200 million in Act 13 fees in 2012, the first year of the legislation. Another \$260 million is expected to be distributed in July.

Corbett said that an impact fee imposed on drillers was a better choice than a tax on gas production. "They pay all the taxes that every other corporation does," he said.

He added that taxing gas companies would have placed more restrictions on them that are not in place in other natural gas-producing states.

"What we were trying to do was give an even playing field," he said.

Money generated from Act 13 turned out to be twice the amount predicted, according to Corbett.