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Appropriations Chairman



Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS, CHAIR

BANKING & INSURANCE

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY

April 16, 2026

Underground Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania  
331–345 Locust Street  
Columbia, PA 17512

Dear Members of the Board:

I am pleased to offer my support for the Underground Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. As a lifelong Lancaster County resident, I am well aware of the extraordinary role this county played in the Underground Railroad — and equally aware that this history has never received the permanent, prominent institution it deserves. The museum proposed for Columbia will change that. I believe it has the potential to become one of the most significant heritage destinations in Pennsylvania, and I am glad to lend my name to its development.

The project is serious in its ambitions and credible in its execution. The architectural firm of Perkins & Will — designers of the National Museum of African American History & Culture — has completed preliminary designs for a 10,000-square-foot immersive facility in downtown Columbia, with a target opening of 2028. Alongside the museum itself, an initiative to identify and activate more than 100 under-recognized Underground Railroad sites across the Commonwealth will extend its reach and relevance statewide. As chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I understand what it takes to translate a compelling vision into a funded reality, and I am confident this project has the leadership and community support to do exactly that.

Lancaster County has a story to tell that belongs in the national conversation about freedom, courage, and the meaning of American citizenship. The Underground Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is the right vehicle to tell it. I encourage foundations, philanthropists, and government partners to invest in this project, and I look forward to supporting its progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott F. Martin".

Scott F. Martin  
Pennsylvania State Senator, 13<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District