



June 15, 2004

The Board of County Commissioners
and the Beaver County Controller
County of Beaver
Beaver, Pennsylvania

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Beaver County, Pennsylvania (the County) as of December 31, 2003, and for the year then ended, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the accompanying table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the County's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the component units' financial statements of the Beaver County Transit Authority and the Community College of Beaver County. Those financial statements were audited by other auditors whose reports have been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the Beaver County Transit Authority and the Community College of Beaver County, is based solely on the reports of the other auditors.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit and the reports of other auditors provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the reports of other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component units, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Beaver County, Pennsylvania as of December 31, 2003, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.