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August 25, 2011

The Honorable P. Michael Sturla
Chairman, Democratic Policy Committee
House of Representatives
414 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: 9/1/11 Policy Committee Hearing on HB 1408

Dear Chairman Sturla:

On behalf of its membership comprising thousands of businesses of all sizes and across all industry sectors, the PA Chamber of Business and Industry wishes to express its opposition to HB 1408, mandating that warning labels be placed on all cellular telephone devices and in retail locations where the phones are sold.

The legislation, while well intentioned, is not based on sound science. Per the legislation, the labeling requirement would be required to inform the public about the *possible* health dangers of cell phone use, and that cell phone use *may* cause brain cancer. Recently, some health and safety interest groups have interpreted certain reports to suggest that wireless device use may be linked to cancer and other illnesses, posing potentially greater risks for children than adults. While these assertions have gained increased public attention, currently no scientific evidence establishes a causal link between wireless device use and cancer or other illnesses.

This bill also has a wide ranging impact that includes manufacturers and retailers, all of which are competing in the global marketplace. If Pennsylvania were to enact a state specific labeling mandate counter to the rest of the country, it would hinder manufacturers' ability to compete globally. As our economy struggles to emerge from the worst recession in more than seventy years, we need to be examining every possible way to reduce costs for Pennsylvania businesses and consumers, not adding to them.

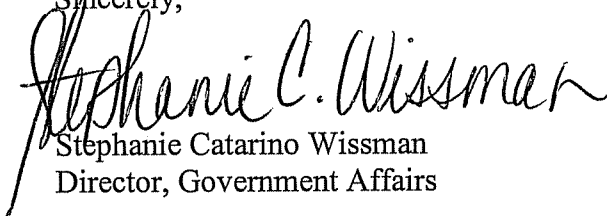
The legislation also claims that wireless devices aren't regulated. This is simply not true. The wireless industry is regulated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). All wireless devices sold in the US go through a formal FCC approval process to ensure

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that they do not exceed the maximum allowable Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) level when operating at the device's highest possible power level. If the device in stores is not the device the FCC approved, the FCC can withdraw its approval and pursue enforcement action against the appropriate party.

The PA Chamber appreciates the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie C. Wissman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and 'W'.

Stephanie C. Wissman
Stephanie Catarino Wissman
Director, Government Affairs