

JOSEPH PRESTON, JR., MEMBER  
PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

MEMO

**DATE:** September 12, 2011  
**RE:** Request for Co-Sponsors – Cell Tower Siting  
**TO:** All House Members  
**FROM:** Rep. Joseph Preston, Jr.  
Democratic Chairman  
House Consumer Affairs Committee

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Upon our return to session the week of September 26<sup>th</sup>, I will be introducing legislation to create a single-point of contact for Commonwealth agencies in the Office of Administration for the purpose of siting cell towers and antenna on Commonwealth-owned property.

According the FCC, as of June 2007 just over 9 million PA residents have cell phone service, representing 74% of PA's population. Most of those residents have access to clear, strong signals. However, gaps do exist in some regions of the state. These gaps (mostly in places like the Northern Tier Counties and other location or company specific areas) result in interruption of (dropped calls) or lack of telecommunications coverage (dead zones).

In 2008, the PA Senate adopted Resolution 206 which directed the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LB&FC) to determine to what extent these gaps in coverage exist for major cell phone service providers and identify recommendations to reduce or eliminate such gaps in service without unnecessary proliferation of cell towers.

One of the suggestions from the LB&FC report was to *create a single point of contact for developing procedures for siting cell phone towers on Commonwealth-owned lands. This agency would inventory the cell phone towers and antennas on those lands to ensure that current lease rates are in line with market rates.*

If you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please email Wendy at [wshearer@pahouse.net](mailto:wshearer@pahouse.net) or call my Harrisburg Office 783-1017. Thank you.