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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, CHAIRMAN
INSURANCE
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 22, 2011
TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Robert W. Godshall, Chairman
House Consumer Affairs Committee
SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Cell Tower Legislation

R.W.G.

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation that will streamline the process used by municipalities to consider applications for collocation or modification of existing wireless telecommunications infrastructure, specifically, cell towers.

Consumers are constantly demanding access to faster wireless networks with better reception and expanded service coverage. It is estimated that 87% of Pennsylvanians are wireless consumers and 11% of all Pennsylvania households are wireless only. Meeting consumer demand requires installation or upgrades of existing wireless infrastructure and my bill will encourage and enhance the collocation of wireless facilities on existing towers and support structures, in lieu of constantly building out new towers.

Currently, wireless carriers seeking to place wireless facilities on an existing wireless tower or support structure may be subject to zoning, land-use or other regulatory requirements that are above and beyond the requirements used for siting the original wireless tower or support structure. This imposes a burdensome and time consuming process on these carriers who are merely seeking to add their facilities to an existing wireless tower.

To address this issue, my bill will streamline the process used by municipalities to site wireless facilities and would prevent carriers looking to collocate or upgrade wireless facilities on existing towers from being subject to new or additional requirements other than those used in the initial tower siting process. Additionally, my bill requires a municipality to make a decision on an application within 90 days.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Jane Hugendubler at 783-6428 or jhugendu@pahousegop.com. Thank you for your interest and support.