

TO: All House Members
FROM: The Honorable Vanessa Lowery Brown
DATE: January 25, 2013
RE: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation – Former H.B. 733, P.N. 750 (Alternative Certification)

In the near future, I plan to re-introduce former House Bill 733, Printer's Number 750, which addresses the acceptance of Alternative Certification, Reciprocity of Certification, and the optional establishment of Disadvantaged Business Utilization Programs.

Specifically, this measure seeks to implement three worthwhile initiatives.

- First, it allows the Department to accept the certification of any eligible disadvantaged business certified under the Pennsylvania Unified Certification Program, which will establish greater uniformity in the Commonwealth's disadvantaged business certification process.
- Secondly, it mandates that the certification of any disadvantaged business enterprise by the Department under the Pennsylvania Unified Certification Program must be accepted and used by a governmental agency as adequate certification for the purpose of bidding on, or participating in any public bid contract or award, the execution of which involves the use of Commonwealth funds.
- Lastly, it would enable each governmental agency receiving public funds to establish a Disadvantaged Business Utilization Program. Such a program, at the discretion of the respective governmental agency, would be established for the express purpose of encouraging the widespread participation and utilization of disadvantaged businesses in the performance of Commonwealth funded contracts.

We as legislators and public officials constantly and glibly espouse the lofty principle of "leveling the playing field." Let us finally and collectively put some teeth behind our rhetoric by supporting Pennsylvania's disadvantaged businesses.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this legislation, please contact Mr. Brandon J. Flood at (717)772-6955 or BFlood@pahouse.net.