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## **VERIZON WIRELESS TESTIMONY**

### **PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**Monday, October 15, 2007**

Verizon Wireless appreciates this opportunity to offer its support of **House Bill 1827**, an important public safety initiative. Verizon Wireless, owner and operator of the nation's most reliable wireless network, is committed to promoting and educating the public on the safe and responsible use of wireless phones while driving.

Verizon Wireless realizes the importance of driver responsibility and common sense while using a wireless phone and driving. It's a personal choice to use a wireless phone while driving, and we encourage our customers to use common sense and obey all vehicular laws if they choose to talk on a wireless phone while driving.

Verizon Wireless also supports state legislation such as HB 1827 that calls for the required use of hands-free devices when driving and using a wireless phone, but gives permission for the unrestricted use of wireless phones for emergency calls. We do this because we believe this is the responsible way to use a wireless phone if drivers choose to do so when behind the wheel of a vehicle.

Verizon Wireless has taken numerous steps with our products to encourage safe and responsible driving.

- We offer only wireless phones that are adaptable for hands-free accessories.
- We offer a wide range of the most current wireless accessories, including hands-free car kits, headsets and earpieces at all of our Verizon Wireless Communications Stores, kiosks and on our website, [www.verizonwireless.com](http://www.verizonwireless.com).
- We promote the development of new wireless technologies that will make in-car phone use even easier than it is with the products we offer now.



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- We encourage safe, responsible driving practices and offer these basic reminders:

*For your well being and the well being of those around you, you should always use your wireless phone responsibly while driving. The following recommendations and reminders are not only sensible, they may be mandatory in some areas.*

- 1. When behind the wheel, safe and responsible driving is always your first priority.*
- 2. Do not manually dial or look up phone numbers when driving. Pre-program important and frequently dialed numbers and use the voice-activated and speed-dialing features of your phone. Do not take notes, check or send e-mail, text messages or picture messages while driving.*
- 3. Using a wireless phone while driving may increase your risk of distraction, whether or not you use a hands-free device. To eliminate this risk, consider turning your phone off and allowing calls to go to Voice Mail.*
- 4. The risk of using a wireless phone while driving may be increased during hazardous traffic or weather conditions. When driving in these conditions, consider turning your phone off and allowing calls to go to Voice Mail.*
- 5. If you choose to talk and drive, always use a hands-free device. Make sure your hands-free device is on and working before driving.*
- 6. Do not engage in complex, stressful or emotional calls while driving.*
- 7. Know your wireless phone number so emergency personnel can call you back. You may want to write it down and keep it in your car for quick reference.*

- We encourage customers to pay attention to key dates that affect hands-free driving policies and legislation in their communities.

- Through our vIQ<sup>SM</sup> program, or "vehicle Intelligence Quest," we provide a unique educational package that encourages new drivers to consider their driving aptitude and educates them about the options for using wireless technologies in vehicles.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our comments on this important public safety issue.