



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE  
1800 ELMERTON AVENUE  
HARRISBURG, PA 17110

COLONEL FRANK NOONAN  
COMMISSIONER

April 19, 2011

The Honorable Richard A. Geist  
House of Representatives  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
144 Main Capitol Building  
Post Office Box 202079  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-2079


Dear Representative Geist:

Distracted driving continues to be a significant factor in highway crashes. These crashes have resulted in many injuries and in some cases, deaths. In recent years, the increase of people using cellular telephones and texting devices while driving has only contributed to this problem. The focus of House Bill 896 addresses these dangerous habits.

However, as Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police, I cannot stress enough the importance of making enforcement of such violations a primary offense. Primary offense provisions allow Troopers to conduct proactive patrol activities and stop motorists before they crash and injure others. Proactive patrol is one of the most useful tools available to police in reducing crashes. Enactment of legislation making such a violation a primary enforcement provision will undoubtedly save lives.

The Pennsylvania State Police remains appreciative of your efforts in addressing such important topics as distracted driving and other initiatives to ensure the safety of those who traverse our highways. Please be assured of our continued cooperation in all matters of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

  
Colonel Frank Noonan  
Commissioner