TO: All Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania State Senate

FROM: Kevin Sunday, Director of Government Affairs

DATE: January 24, 2018

RE: Support Senate Bill 977

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business & Industry (PA Chamber), the largest, broad-based business advocacy association in the Commonwealth, I am writing to urge that you vote in support of Senate Bill 977. Fundamental and thoughtful change to the state’s regulatory development process is necessary to bring about a government that operates in adherence to the tenets of constitutional separation of powers and to bring further clarity and predictability to the regulated community.

The development and finalization of regulatory rulemakings by executive agencies in Pennsylvania have begun to outpace the enactment of authorizing legislation. It is critical to a well-functioning government that the legislative branch, through its respective standing committees, ensures that the various executive agencies developing and finalizing these rulemakings have appropriately considered public comment, adequately demonstrated statutory authority, accurately balanced costs and benefits, and, importantly, faithfully exercised the delegation of powers by the legislative branch by conforming to legislative intent and statutory language.

The original Regulatory Review Act, which Senate Bill 977 amends, expressly provides for “a method for ongoing and effective legislative review and oversight in order to foster executive branch accountability.” Senate Bill 977 provides the legislature a means to do this by authorizing various standing committees the ability to intervene in the regulatory development process if warranted.

A substantially similar bill previously passed the Senate chamber unanimously last session, only to be ultimately vetoed by the Governor. The approach in Senate Bill 977 has been slightly adjusted to address the Governor’s concerns in his veto message. As Senate Bill 977 provides transparency, accountability and effective oversight, please vote in support of this legislation.

Please contact Kevin Sunday at (717) 720-5443 or ksunday@pachamber.org with any questions.