



TO: All Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Community, Economic & Recreational Development

FROM: Kevin Sunday, Director of Government Affairs

DATE: Sept. 24, 2018

RE: Support House Bill 1284

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 House Bill 1284. This legislation, which is supported by a bipartisan group of co-sponsors and has passed the House unanimously, will establish a simplified process for businesses to apply for and secure permits via an online platform.

We have been encouraged so far with the results achieved by the Department of Environmental Protection moving to e-permitting in a number of their programs. Among these results are improved permit review times, in part due to the electronic system's ability to ensure a full and complete permit application is submitted. Additional deployment and use of this type of technology across all of DEP's permit programs, as well as that of other state agencies, will allow for better use of taxpayer resources and improve consistency and regulatory certainty for the business community. It may be necessary to raise, repurpose or rededicate additional funding for this endeavor to secure the build-out of a robust, online permitting platform; if such funding is responsibly managed and improves the functioning of state government, the PA Chamber views such use of funds a wise investment.

In view of this, we urge you to vote in support of HB 1284.

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