



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA Senate Transportation Committee

FROM: Alex Halper, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: June 8, 2021

RE: Support H.B. 765 – PennDOT indemnification agreements

On behalf of the PA Chamber, I urge support for H.B. 765 regarding indemnification agreements for events involving a state road, which the Committee is scheduled to consider today.

PennDOT regulations require any organization applying for a state road use permit to indemnify the Commonwealth. The same regulation states that the host municipality must also indemnify the Commonwealth; however, we understand this requirement has long been viewed as duplicative and unnecessary and therefore not enforced.

It has come to our attention that PennDOT has begun enforcing this requirement on municipalities, who are understandably reluctant to provide these statements of indemnification. Local chambers of commerce have reported that major outdoor community events are at risk of being cancelled. These are not only major sources of income, but also possibly the first time in many months that a community is able to proceed with an event since so many have been postponed or cancelled.

We appreciate PennDOT's caution but urge lawmakers to support this bill and codify the approach used effectively for many years. Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-645-8730 with questions or to discuss.