



TO: The Honorable Members of the Senate Intergovernmental Operations Committee

FROM: Kevin Sunday, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: May 8, 2023

RE: Support SB 350 and SB 633 - Permitting Reform and Regulatory Sandboxes

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, the largest, broad-based business advocacy organization in the Commonwealth, representing nearly 10,000 member companies of all sizes from across all commercial and industrial sectors, I write to strongly encourage you to **vote yes on SB 350 and SB 633**, which respectively streamline permit approvals across agencies and establish regulatory sandboxes for innovative and emerging industries.

Pennsylvania has lost out on significant new and expanded investment due to a protracted and challenging permitting process that does not provide clarity and certainty to the regulated community. With major manufacturers looking to shore up supply chains and relocate out of Europe and China, it is imperative Pennsylvania provide a welcoming regulatory environment. SB 350 builds upon Gov. Shapiro's initiatives to better manage the permitting process, which we applauded, by codifying the Governor's Office of Transformation and Opportunity into law and also by providing for timelines for permits to receive a decision. If the agency does not act or invoke its option to send the application for review by a third-party, the permit will be deemed approved. Similar "shot clocks" limiting how long agencies can deliberate on permits were codified into recent bipartisan legislation at the federal level, including bills funding infrastructure and defense spending.

This approach is part of the PA Chamber's [permitting reform plan](#) and was also endorsed by the Pennsylvania Building and Construction Trades Council in a [joint op-ed with the leaders of both organizations](#) that ran in various outlets earlier this year.

We also encourage your support for SB 633, which establishes regulatory sandboxes for emerging and innovative technologies and services whose delivery may not squarely fit within existing regulatory frameworks. States that score higher than Pennsylvania on measures related to business competitiveness and economic dynamism have adopted this approach successfully, including Utah, Virginia, Arizona, Nevada and Florida.

We urge your support for both of these bills, and we thank Chairman Coleman and members of the committee for making a priority permitting reform that will move Pennsylvania forward and expand opportunity to its residents.

For any questions, please contact Kevin Sunday, Director of Government Affairs, at ksunday@pachamber.org or 717 645-2071.

