

## Democratic Caucus Chairman

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REPLY TO:



Senate of Pennsylvania

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Honorable John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
14th Floor, Harrisburg 2  
333 Market Street  
HAND DELIVER

Dear Chairman McGinley:

I am writing to respectfully request that the Independent Regulatory Review Commission hold hearings on the motor vehicle damage appraiser regulations proposed by the PA Department of Insurance **before** the Department begins its review to determine if they will resubmit the regulations for final approval. It is my understanding that your usual procedures do not provide for a hearing to be held at this point. However, I believe these regulations are far too important, and would affect far too many people to exclude interested citizens from making public comments now. By doing so, the Insurance Department would have an opportunity to hear from the public directly **before** it goes back to decide if the proposed regulations should be submitted for final approval and, if so, if any modifications should be made to the proposal.

It is my impression that many citizens throughout the Commonwealth are unaware of these proposed regulations. Last week, I issued a press release to let the public know of the Department's proposal and to let them know that I had contacted you to ask that the proposed regulations be disapproved. Since then, I have heard from a number of my constituents, some of whom are in the motor vehicle body shop business and some who have had bad experiences dealing with their insurance company while in the process of arranging to have their vehicle repaired.

While I recognize that a hearing at this point would be an extraordinary step, the potential effect of these proposed regulations is extremely far reaching and would substantially change the way motor vehicle repairs are handled. I believe that it is vitally important to hear from interested citizens directly at this early stage in the process. My concern is that the public will not have an opportunity to express what I expect to be strong opposition to a proposal that is of significant importance to them until it is too late. I respectfully ask that you not allow that to happen.

Thank you for giving this request your full and thorough consideration. Should you wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Michael A. O'Pake  
Senator, 11th District

MAOP:TWG