BERNARD S. GUTKOWSKI, JR. FUNERAL DIRECTOR / SUPERVISOR

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BERNARD S. GUTKOWSKI FUNERAL HOME, INC. 305 JEFFERSON STREET SWEDESBURG, UPPER MERION TWP., PA 19405

Mr. Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman Independent Regulatory Review Commission 333 Market St. Harrisburg, Pa. 17101

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli:

I am a Pennsylvania Licensed Funeral Director. I am writing to you today to express my **strong support for Regulation 16A-4816** as proposed by the State Board of Funeral Directors.

The State Board of Funereal Directors has held public hearings the past four years in order to address the issues raised in the federal court case <u>Walker v. Flitton</u> (2005), prior to promulgation of regulation 16A-4816.

The State Board has carefully written this regulation to address the issues in the <u>Walker</u> case, while staying in compliance with the Funeral Director Law, which *prohibits* the offer to sell or selling of preneed arrangements by unlicensed individuals.

Furthermore, this regulation address the need in the profession to protect consumers, while at the same time preserving the integrity of the funeral director's license.

Regulation 16A-4816 provides a solid safeguard to the public concerning their pre-need arrangements. It is in the public's best interest.

I respectfully request IRRC's approval of Regulation 16A-4816 in its current form,

Sincerely, Junarls. Luckowsei, S.

Bernard S. Gutkowski, Jr.

President, Bernard S. Gutkowski Funeral Home, Inc.