



**EMMCO West, Inc.**

Northwestern PA Regional EMS Council

2917.

August 2, 2013

Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market Street, 14th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear IRRC Commissioners;

We are representing EMMCO West, Inc., the regional emergency medical services (EMS) council for Northwestern Pennsylvania. EMMCO West's regional area is comprised of seven counties, which vary in population size and geography. Our region has Pennsylvania's third largest metropolitan area (Erie), which is contrasted to the least populated county in Pennsylvania (Forest County). These geographic and population variances enable EMMCO West to be sensitive to the challenges of providing EMS care in urban, suburban, and rural EMS systems.

We wish to speak at/on the following regulation being considered by IRRC-

Name of the regulation: Department of Health – Emergency Medical Services System  
Regulation Number: #10-190 (IRRC #2917)  
Date of Hearing: Thursday, August 22, 2013  
Time: 10:00 AM

The EMMCO West, Inc. Board of Directors supports the adoption of the EMS system regulations, as they are presented in their final draft form before the IRRC commissioners. In 2009, the signing and adoption of Act 37 was a significant cornerstone event for Pennsylvania's EMS system. The proposed draft regulations will become the keystone piece of Act 37. With their approval, for the first time since its signing, Act 37 can be fully enabled.

Our region's EMS system stakeholder's voices and opinions were heard by representatives of the PA Department of Health during the creation of both EMS Act 37 and these draft regulations. EMMCO West and regional EMS system stakeholders actively participated in town hall meetings, which were held at locations throughout the EMMCO West region, to discuss both documents. Input from these town hall meetings helped to craft both EMS Act 37 and these draft regulations.

*The bottom line is patient care*

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The current Healthcare system is much different than when Act 45 was approved in 1987. The EMS system is being governed by 26 year old regulations that do not correspond with Act 37. In order for the Pennsylvania EMS System to continue to function, today and in the future, EMMCO West asks that the IRRC approve the regulations as presented.

On behalf of EMMCO West, the regional EMS council for Northwest Pennsylvania, we respectfully recommend that the IRRC Commissioners approve the PA Department of Health – EMS System Regulations #10-190 (IRRC #2917).


Respectfully,



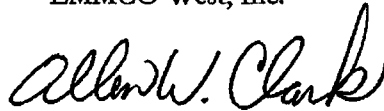
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