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August 16, 2013

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

Dear Commissioners:

The Board of Directors of the Southern Alleghenies Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council are pleased to lend our support for the passage of the EMS final-form Regulation Number #10-190 (IRRC #2917).

Southern Alleghenies EMS Council is a regional EMS council tasked to plan, develop, maintain, expand and improve EMS systems within the counties of Bedford; Blair; Cambria; Fulton; Huntingdon and Somerset. We provide support and assistance to 113 EMS agencies and over 3,000 EMS providers.

Pennsylvania Act 37 was signed and adopted in 2009, and was the first complete overhaul of the law governing emergency medical services (EMS) in Pennsylvania since the original adoption of Act 45 in 1987. EMS and healthcare have changed dramatically since 1987, and will continue to change at a rapid rate for the foreseeable future. As Pennsylvania balances those changes, the system desperately needs approval of the regulations that will be the lynchpin of Act 37 to allow the EMS system to continue to grow and develop. The Act and pursuant regulations poise Pennsylvania to be on the front lines of EMS development and provide the ability to grow along with the rapidly changing healthcare system.

The proposed regulations have been drafted with significant input from stakeholders across the Commonwealth, and ample opportunity has been provided for revisions and updates based on that input. There has been much hard work done to get the final-form regulations to where they are now. We strongly recommend that the Independent Regulatory Review Committee approve these regulations and support the impetus to build the finest EMS system in the nation.

If you should have any questions, or if we can provide additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Gary Watters, President/CEO

Carl Moen, Acting Executive Director

Pc: Richard Gibbons, Director, Bureau of EMS

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