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April 15, 2013

The Honorable Silvan B. Lutkewitte, III, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: Regulation #12 – 96: Unemployment Compensation; Active Search for Work

Dear Chairman Lutkewitte:

On behalf of the thousands of employers represented by the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, I again write to urge the Independent Regulatory Review Commission to approve the Department of Labor and Industry's (the Department) rulemaking related to work search requirements for unemployment compensation (UC) claimants.

The PA Chamber supported the enactment of Act 6 of 2011, which included a work search requirement for UC claimants and was passed unanimously by both the State Senate and House of Representatives. This legislation, along with Act 60 of 2012, provided important amendments to Pennsylvania UC law that were necessary to bring balance to the program and put it on a path to fiscal sustainability. The implementation of a work search requirement is integral to this initiative and will finally eliminate Pennsylvania's unfortunate distinction as the only state in the country without such a requirement.

Directing UC claimants to register with and work through the Pennsylvania CareerLink System will assist employers with open positions to identify potential applicants; provide unemployed individuals with access to a credible and comprehensive inventory of job openings; and help to ensure that UC beneficiaries are indeed actively searching for work.

We supported the Department's first final form-regulation submitted on April 19, 2012 and believe this latest submission addresses concerns raised by the Commission, which prompted its disapproval of the initial submission. Accordingly, we urge you to approve this regulation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Alex Halper
Director, Government Affairs

cc: The Honorable Julia Hearthway, Secretary, PA Department of Labor and Industry