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June 28, 2013

Silvan B. Lutkewitte, III, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street 13th Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

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I am writing to express my concerns and objections to the proposed obscene increase in the lobby registration fee. As other commenter's have opined, this excessive fee increase will have a chilling effect on our citizens and their representatives (lobbyists) Constitutional rights of "redress."

Prior to this perceived "constitutional" lobby registration law, lobbyists were required by law to register under Act 212 of 1976. This statute, in the opinion of many, served the public interest well until Act 134 and its predecessor (unconstitutional) statute were forced on the public and lobbying community by a certain "public" interest group.

Article 1 section 20 of the Pennsylvania Constitution states, "The citizens have a right in a peaceable manner to assemble together for their common good, and to apply to those invested with the powers of government for redress of grievances or other proper purposes by petition, address or remonstrance."

The fee in Act 134 is an affront to that right. It is one the worse forms of tyranny a government can foist on its citizens, even Congress does not impose such a burden on Advocates at the Federal level. In my opinion, it is tantamount to a poll tax.

I urge the Commission to disapprove this tax, and to urge the Legislature to revisit this issue and repeal Section 13A10 of the Act and to take back its authority to regulate those who have business before it and the Administration.

Sincerely,

Frederick C. Brown
President and Owner

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