



417 Walnut Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1902  
717 255-3252 / 800 225-7224  
FAX 717 255-3298  
[www.pachamber.org](http://www.pachamber.org)

February 28, 2012

The Honorable Ron Marsico  
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee  
218 Ryan Office Building  
PO Box 202105  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2105

Dear Chairman Marsico:

On behalf of its thousands of members crossing all industry sectors, the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry is writing you to express its support for House Bills 1815 and 1816, which provide for the merit selection of appellate court judges. These bills are the subject of a House Judiciary Committee public hearing scheduled for March 1, 2012.

To function properly, the courts must command the absolute respect and confidence of the general public. Furthermore, Pennsylvania businesses want an efficient, cost-effective judicial system comprised of appellate court judges of demonstrated expertise, independence, integrity and competence who adhere to the highest standard of judicial behavior. Pennsylvania can maintain these core qualities by distinguishing judges from elected legislators and executives and move to a merit based approach. These bills will modernize the judicial selection process for the betterment of the Commonwealth's future by instituting a fair selection process based on qualifications.

The purpose of appellate review is to evaluate the legal correctness of the application of law and regulation by trial courts and, in the instance of the Commonwealth Court, of administrative agencies. This is a valuable core function of the Pennsylvania judicial process which is critical for the business community as it ensures that proper scrutiny is given to decisions that affect the very existence of a business and the jobs it creates.

Again, the PA Chamber supports these bills and respectfully urges you to consider them in the near future.

Sincerely,

Samuel Denisco  
Vice President, Government Affairs