

October 4, 2005

Dear Chairmen Morrissey and Dempsey:

On behalf of our organization and the many Massachusetts citizens and businesses we represent, we ask you to oppose SB 1790 and HB 3331, which are before your committee. These bills would impose rigid, costly, and unnecessary regulations on wireless services, adding cost and confusion for the state's 4 million wireless consumers. Furthermore, these proposed regulations could seriously harm the Massachusetts economy by forcing job cuts in the wireless industry, as well as hurting businesses that benefit from wireless technology. Wireless carriers directly employ approximately 2,400 people in Massachusetts, with an annual payroll of nearly \$173.4 million (2004). Countless other small and large businesses use wireless every day to produce goods, to serve consumers, and to thrive.

Massachusetts has a highly competitive wireless market that offers consumers numerous choices. In fact, an August 2005 Opinion Dynamics poll of Massachusetts voters overwhelmingly found that wireless consumers are satisfied with the cost, quality, options and service wireless provides. Excessive and rigid new regulations will lead to higher costs and fewer choices for Massachusetts consumers.

In fact, Massachusetts consumers are *already protected* under national wireless regulations, as well as self-imposed consumer guidelines established by the wireless industry several years ago. Furthermore, in July 2004, Massachusetts joined 32 other states in a settlement with various wireless carriers, which addresses many consumer concerns. Adding state-by-state regulations onto these layers of existing regulations would create confusion and higher costs for consumers, without significant benefits.

We are asking you to oppose SB 1790 and HB 3331, which would harm Massachusetts consumers and the competitive wireless industry in our state. The citizens and businesses we represent in Massachusetts benefit from wireless services, and do not want the higher costs and complications that these proposed regulations would cause.

Sincerely,



Jon B. Hurst  
President  
**Retailers Association of Massachusetts (RAM)**



Bill Vernon  
State Director  
**NFIB/Massachusetts**



Carol Meier  
Executive Director  
**Massachusetts Network Communications Council**



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