



SMC Business Councils
1382 Beulah Road, Building 801
Pittsburgh, PA 15235-5068
Phone: 412.371.1500, Fax: 412.371.0460
toll-free: 1.800.553.3260
www.smc.org

May 23, 2011

Hon. Joseph Scarnati, President Pro Tempore
Senate of Pennsylvania
292 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senator Scarnati:

As SMC Business Councils Government Relations manager and as a small business owner, I write to ask you to bring the Fair Share Act (HB1/SB2) to a vote in the Senate of Pennsylvania. The legislation has passed the General Assembly twice before. Governor Tom Corbett has asked for the legislation, and the House has already approved it.

SMC Business Councils is a trade organization representing small businesses in central and southwestern Pennsylvania. Our recent issues survey cited tort reform as one of our top priorities. Here's why:

- The tort liability price tag for small businesses in America in 2008 was \$105.4 billion.
- Small businesses bore 81% of business tort liability costs but took in only 22% of revenue.
- Small businesses paid \$35.6 billion of their tort costs out pocket as opposed to through insurance... From the Small Business Legislative Council

Limiting lawsuit abuse by ending the deep-pockets rule of Joint and Several Liability is a major component in improving climate in which PA business – large and small can flourish and create jobs.

More than 40 states have enacted this reform and Pennsylvanians have been waiting for the Fair Share Act to take effect since its initial passage in 2002.

We cannot delay. This must go to the Governor's desk before summer recess.

Please bring the Fair Share Act (HB1/SB2) to a vote on final passage in the state Senate.

Sincerely,

Eileen Anderson
SMC Business Councils
Government Relations manager
412-342-1606