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Brackbill, Robert

From: Jan Tagliaferi [jtagliaferi@alleghenyconference.org] on behalf of Dennis Yablonsky [dyablonsky@alleghenyconference.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 10:51 AM
To: Ward, William (GOV); Mitchell, Karen; Brackbill, Robert
Subject: ACCD Highmark WPAHS support letter
Attachments: ACCD Highmark WPAHS Support letter 2 9 12 final.doc
Importance: High

Please see the attached letter from the Allegheny Conference Health Care Competitiveness Committee in regards to the proposed affiliation of Highmark and West Penn Allegheny Health System. Should you have any additional questions regarding our support of this affiliation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dennis Yablonsky
Chief Executive Officer
Allegheny Conference on Community Development
11 Stanwix Street, 17th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-1312
PH: (412) 281-4783, ext 3125
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February 9, 2012

Honorable Tom Corbett
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Corbett:

On behalf of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, we are writing to express support for the proposed affiliation of Highmark and West Penn Allegheny Health System. As such, the Conference also encourages swift action to ensure the transaction between the two entities is approved quickly.

The health care industry is vital to southwestern Pennsylvania. Most importantly, high quality, cost-effective, accessible and transparent health care is of critical significance to all members of our community.

The health care industry is also of utmost importance to the business community, as it affects the economic competitiveness of the Pittsburgh region. The business community understands it is essential to maintain provider choice in Western Pennsylvania. This will be important for keeping existing jobs and also for new employment opportunities. Likewise, choice, access, cost transparency and competition in the marketplace will also allow us to address the issue of rising health care costs, a top competitiveness issue for many of the leading employers in our region.

The Conference understands that the state must undergo a thorough process of review, but we would again encourage timely approval of the transaction. A prompt approval will be essential so Highmark can begin to institute the operating efficiencies necessary to begin a successful affiliation process with West Penn Allegheny Health System. Continuing the operation of a viable West Penn Allegheny Health System is critical to the future of southwestern Pennsylvania.

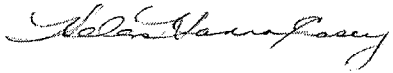
Sincerely,



Charles E. Bunch
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
PPG Industries, Inc.



Dr. Aris S. Candris
President and Chief Executive Officer
Westinghouse Electric Company



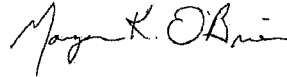
Helen Hanna Casey
President and Chief Executive Officer
Howard Hanna Real Estate Services



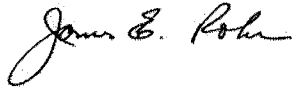
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Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
Allegheny Technologies Incorporated



Samuel M. Liang
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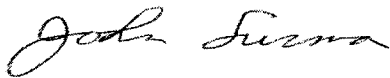
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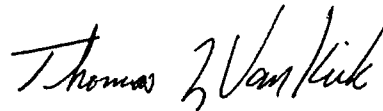
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Thomas L. VanKirk
Chairman
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Dennis Yablonsky
Chief Executive Officer
Allegheny Conference on Community Development

Cc: Robert Brackbill
Chief, Company Licensing Division
Pennsylvania Insurance Department