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April 26, 2013

To: The Honorable Mike Gatto, Chair
The Honorable Diane L. Harkey, Vice Chair
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee

From: Rex D. Frazier, President
Michael A. Gunning, Vice President
Kara Cross, General Counsel
Manolo P. Platin, Legislative Advocate

Re: AB 313 (Frazier) Vehicles: Electronic Wireless Communications Devices
As Introduced February 12, 2013

Assembly Appropriations Committee Hearing, May 1, 2013
PIFC Position: Support

The Personal Insurance Federation of California, representing six of the nation's largest insurance companies (State Farm, Farmers, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Progressive, Allstate and Mercury) who collectively write a majority of the personal line auto and home insurance in California, **supports AB 313: Vehicles: Electronic Wireless Communications Devices by Assemblymember Jim Frazier.**

AB 313 would amend California law to prohibit drivers from utilizing voice-activated electronic devices to send, receive, or listen to text-based communications while behind the wheel.

PIFC and its member companies have a long history of supporting legislation that serves to prevent injuries and enhance public safety. Text messaging while driving, even when the driver is using a hands-free device, is a distraction and is dangerous. With voice-activated text messaging growing in popularity among drivers, now is the time to prohibit this practice.

AB 313 is a common sense measure that will help minimize driver distraction and will ensure safer driving conditions for everyone.

For these reasons, PIFC **supports AB 313: Vehicles: Electronic Wireless Communications Devices by Assemblymember Frazier and urges your "aye" vote.** If you have any questions regarding PIFC's position, please contact Manolo P. Platin at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Assemblymember Jim Frazier, Author
Chuck Nicol, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Gregson Porteous, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Gareth Elliot, Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor