

Joyce Masamitsu
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February 3rd, 2009

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The Honorable Representative Buffie McFayden, Chair
House Committee on Transportation and Energy
Colorado State Legislature

RE: Testimony on House Bill 1094: Concerning Wireless Telephone Prohibitions for Drivers

Dear Chairman McFayden and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Verizon Wireless I am writing to express our support House Bill 1094, legislation that promotes responsible driving but still preserves a hands-free option, bans text messaging and explicitly exempts emergency calls. Verizon Wireless also supports the establishment of a statewide law that preempts local governments from adopting additional restrictions on use of wireless devices while driving. Such a policy ensures uniformity across the state and will simplify enforcement between jurisdictions and minimize confusion by drivers.

Verizon Wireless is the nation's largest wireless service provider. We chose to break the ranks with the wireless industry by demonstrating our cooperative support of safe driving legislation. Verizon Wireless was the first wireless carrier to establish a national policy to support state legislation that encouraged responsible driving initiatives and also preserved a driver's choice to use a cell phone in a responsible manner while operating a motor vehicle. We have educated millions of customers on the responsible use of mobile devices in motor vehicles and have demonstrated our commitment to keeping costs for hands-free devices affordable and easy to obtain. Verizon Wireless has testified in more than 30 states across the country in support of responsible driving initiatives and we have played a key role in the successful passage of safe driving legislation in California, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Utah and Washington.

Finally, Verizon Wireless supports the moderate measures of enforcement outlined in HB 1094 because this allows residents and visitors opportunity to adapt to new driving restrictions in Colorado and still promote long term goals to encourage driving safety across the state.

In closing, Verizon Wireless applauds Representative Levy for her efforts to promote driving safety. Verizon Wireless asks Chairwoman McFayden and members of this Committee, to support of HB 1094 with the goal to encourage Responsible Driving throughout the state of Colorado, in a manner that is both reasonable and enforceable, and provides opportunity for drivers to establish responsible habits while operating a motor vehicle.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Masamitsu".

Joyce Masamitsu
Associate Director, State Public Policy, West Area
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