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November 25, 2014

Philadelphia City Council  
City Hall, Room 400  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

RE: Written Testimony for December 3, 2014 Hearing on CIAWPL Exemptions

Dear Members of the Philadelphia City Council:

As Executive Director of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT), I am writing to express strong disapproval of Bills 140517, 140635, and 140649, which would serve to exempt specific businesses from Philadelphia's Clean Indoor Air Worker Protection Law ("CIAWPL").

SRNT's Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 25-28, 2015 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown. Our more than 1,000 conference attendees—all of whom are concerned about the very real dangers of second-hand smoke—represent hundreds of thousands of dollars in economic activity: hotel rooms, restaurants, shopping, and their attendant taxes. I want to make this as clear as possible: by creating exemptions to the CIAWPL, SRNT will not consider Philadelphia for future conferences and meetings; rather, we will look at East Coast cities such as Baltimore and Boston (both of which have hosted SRNT conferences).

SRNT strictly follows a smoke-free conferences and meetings policy. If a location does not have a comprehensive smoke-free law, *we will not hold a conference there*. And SRNT is not alone. You can find a list of more than 30 organizations with similar policies at <http://www.no-smoke.org/document.php?id=348>. As you diminish the CIAWPL with exemptions, the law becomes less and less "comprehensive," making it more likely that we and other organizations will take our conferences, meetings, and dollars elsewhere.

I appreciate your attention to this issue, and strongly encourage you to vote against Bills 140517, 140635, and 140649, which are bad for public health and, I believe, bad for Philadelphia's economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Wheeler', with a long, sweeping underline.

Bruce Wheeler  
Executive Director