



February 5, 2024

TO: Members, Senate of Pennsylvania

FROM: Ernest Petersen, President,
PA Cemetery, Cremation, and Funeral Association
David Michener, Legislative Chairman, PCCFA

RE: Support for HB 1246, Cremation Temperatures

On behalf of the PA Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association (PCCFA) we urge your support for HB 1246 which was voted out of the Senate Appropriations Committee earlier today. Our Association and related stakeholders are in full support of this legislation.

HB 1246 lowers the temperature requirement to 1600 degrees from the current mandated 1800 degrees. This is congruent with current industry standards, and results in fewer emissions and lower fuel requirements. Over the last several years this issue has been vetted by industry stakeholders and the Department of Environmental Protection. We have reached compromise on the 1600 degree temperature requirement and made additional changes to accommodate concerns raised by DEP. The bill passed the House unanimously on June 20, 2023.

The federal EPA conducted emissions testing at 1400, 1600, and 1800 degrees. This testing found that emissions were lowest at 1400 degrees. Emissions from crematories, at any temperature, are so low that, after studying the issue, EPA chose not to regulate crematories at the federal level.

Lower temperature also reduces fuel consumption. Most crematories are fueled by natural gas or propane. In addition, lower temperatures mean less wear and tear on crematory equipment. Crematories are lined with specially manufactured refractory “bricks” meant to contain and retain the heat of the cremation process. This material wears out over time and must be replaced. Such a “re-bricking” of a crematory can cost \$20,000 or more. Lower temperatures reduce how often a crematory must do so.

We ask for your support for HB 1246 when it comes before the full Senate for a vote. Should you have any questions or desire additional information please contact our government relations representative Morgan Plant, morganplant@mac.com or 717.386.1012. Thank you for your consideration of this request.