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**West Virginia Business & Industry Council  
Urges REJECTION of HB4187**

**CHARLESTON, WV** – The West Virginia Business & Industry Council is asking lawmakers to reject House Bill 4187, the so-called Business Liability Protection Act.

The bill's actual impact would be to authorize an unwarranted and unnecessary intrusion on any business owner's property rights. If enacted, HB4187 would allow employees to keep firearms locked in their personal vehicles on company property even if the company has an official policy not to allow firearms.

"Let's be clear on this – our objection has nothing to do with guns or West Virginians' second amendment rights," said BIC Chairman Chris Hamilton. "Our objection to HB4187 is based on a fundamental right for business owners to be able to regulate their property as they see fit. We have a wide variety of business properties in West Virginia, many of which involve safety sensitive materials and workplaces."

Hamilton said many BIC members represent companies with operations in several states, and HB4187 would put West Virginia out of step with how they are allowed to operate in other jurisdictions.

"Our business owners already have a myriad regulations and insurance requirements that affect their businesses," he said. "If you take away their ability to manage their own property, it will be just another strike against West Virginia's ability to compete for new business investment. We hope West Virginia lawmakers hit the pause button on HB4187 and realize this is not legislation that will move West Virginia forward."

The West Virginia Business & Industry Council represents more than 60 West Virginia trade associations and businesses representing more than 395,000 employees. The organization's goal is to enhance the business climate in West Virginia, and its members have been working to that end for more than three decades.

For additional information, contact Chris Hamilton at (304) 342-4153.

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