



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Timothy W. Carpenter**

N I N T H   A S S E M B L Y   D I S T R I C T

January 31, 2000

Representative Jeffrey Stone  
Chairman, Assembly Highway and Safety Committee  
Room 306 North  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Stone:

Several of my constituents have inquired about legislative efforts to prohibit motorists from using cell phones while driving. I am aware that there currently is no such legislation pending in either legislative house and that in the past, Department of Transportation (DOT) and state law enforcement officials have argued against such initiatives, believing that Wisconsin's current statutes pertaining to inattentive driving already adequately address this issue. Before introducing such legislation on my own, I wanted to first make a request to the Assembly Highway and Safety Committee, to take up this matter to ascertain if our inattentive driving statutes can be restructured to address the growing public concern over cell phone use by motor vehicle operators.

If you have any questions, would like additional information or would like to have me work with the Legislative Council to draft specific language for the Assembly Highway and Safety Committee to consider, please do not hesitate to give me a call. In advance, thank you for your time and consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim".

TIMOTHY W. CARPENTER  
State Representative  
9<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

TWC:rl

**Prentiss, Mike**

**From:** Rep.Stone  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2000 3:34 PM  
**To:** Rep.Carpenter

Dear Rep. Carpenter,

Thank you for your letter regarding possible legislation banning the use of cell phones while driving.

I believe that during the 1997-1998 session then-Rep. Jim Baumgart circulated a bill draft covering this topic, but that the draft was not ultimately introduced. You may want to contact Sen. Baumgart and see if he has any plans to pursue similar legislation this session.

I believe that our existing inattentive driving statutes can be used by law enforcement officers to ticket drivers who are distracted by the use of their cell phone, but would be happy to meet with you and other interested parties to discuss this matter further.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. If you have any other questions, or would like to meet to discuss this, feel free to contact either me or my committee clerk, Mike Prentiss.

Sincerely,

Jeff Stone  
State Representative  
82<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District