**Sample letters to the editor**

**Concerned motorist letter to the editor**

DATE

Dear Editor,

As a concerned motorist, I agree with our government, transportation, business and community leaders who encourage Illinois drivers to “Drop It and Drive.”

In my experience, there is no greater threat to roadway safety than drivers talking, texting or surfing the Web on their hand-held cellphones.

Statistics confirm that using a hand-held cellphone while driving is deadly and dangerous.

From 2013 through 2017, nearly 11,800 crashes occurred in which some form of driver distraction involving a cellphone was cited by police according to the Illinois Department of Transportation.

These crashes resulted in 79 fatalities.

Nationwide, in 2017 alone, a total of 434 people died in fatal crashes that involved cellphone-related activities as a distraction, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.

The statewide “Drop It and Drive.” campaign is something my family and I stand behind. The campaign educates drivers about the hand-held cell phone ban that took effect in Illinois in 2014 and reminds drivers to keep their hands off the phone and their hands on the wheel.

I encourage everyone to visit [www.dropitanddriveillinois.com](http://www.dropitanddriveillinois.com) to learn how they, too, can participate in the campaign and how to avoid distracted driving.

Sincerely,

Concerned Motorist

**President and CEO letter to the editor**

DATE, 2014

Dear Editor,

At **COMPANY NAME**, we are alerting all of our employees and customers about the hand-held cellphone ban that took effect in Illinois on January 1, 2014, and reminding them that if they drive with a phone in one hand, they can expect a ticket in the other.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration reports that at any given time of day, about 800,000 drivers are using hand-held cellphones while driving.

That’s slightly more than the combined population of five of the six largest cities in Illinois – Aurora, Rockford, Joliet, Naperville and Springfield.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, drivers using hand-held phones are four times more likely to get into a crash causing injuries.

Nationally, more than 3,300 people died in 2012 in distracted driving-related crashes – about 10 percent of all traffic deaths – and an estimated 421,000 were injured.

In Illinois, nearly 6,000 crashes occurred from 2008 to 2012 in which some form of driver distraction involving a cellphone was cited by police, according to the Illinois Department of Transportation.  Of those, 30 were fatal.

The statewide public awareness campaign about distracted driving is something **COMPANY NAME** stands behind.  Unfortunately, distracted driving is a problem that isn’t going away anytime soon, so getting others on board will make the roads safer for all of us.

**COMPANY NAME** encourages everyone to visit [www.dropitanddriveillinois.com](http://www.dropitanddriveillinois.com) to learn how they, too, can participate in the campaign and how to avoid distracted driving.

Sincerely,

President and CEO

**COMPANY NAME**