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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEE:

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN

A-2014-2415045
A-2014-2415047
A-2014-2416127

April 15, 2014

Chairman Robert Powelson
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Powelson,

As you know, two out of state ridesharing companies (Uber and Lyft) are currently operating in Allegheny County without following PUC rules designed to keep passengers, drivers and the community safe.

I have been informed that one of these companies, Lyft, recently filed an application for experimental service with the PUC. However, I was very concerned to learn about the "personal auto liability insurance" requirements Lyft has proposed in their application, which I believe to be wholly inadequate.

I have followed closely the news stories from across the country regarding attempts by various ridesharing companies to shirk their responsibility to pay insurance claims. And I am concerned for the safety and wellbeing of my constituents.

To ensure the safety of the riding public, I must insist that the PUC require all ride sharing vehicles in Allegheny County to follow safe vehicle maintenance practices, require driver background checks and carry the same "Form E" insurance which the PUC requires of vehicles that currently provide taxi service. A passenger in a Lyft vehicle should be afforded the same protections as a passenger in a taxi. And ensuring that protection is in place is the responsibility of the PUC.

I would greatly appreciate your prompt review of this situation so we can create an environment that welcomes new competitive services, but is also responsible and respectful of the laws designed to protect all of our citizens.

Sincerely,

Harry Readshaw
Member 36th Legislative District
Chair (D), Professional Licensure Committee

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 3265, HARRISBURG, PA 17105-3265

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO OUR FILE

April 17, 2014

The Honorable Harry A. Readshaw
PA House of Representatives
221 Irvis Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Readshaw:

Thank you for your recent letter to Chairman Powelson regarding the operations of Lyft and Uber. I am responding on behalf of the Chairman.

Presently, Lyft has filed two applications for Motor Common Carrier of Persons in Experimental Service at Docket Nos. A-2014-2415045 (for Allegheny County authority) and A-2014-2415047 (for statewide authority). As these applications are pending and the potential for protests exist, it would not be appropriate for the Commission or its staff to comment on them. The applications are scheduled to be published in the Pa. Bulletin on April 19, with a 15 day public comment/protest period.

In addition, on April 14, Uber filed an application for Motor Common Carrier of Persons in Experimental Service at Docket No. A-2014-2416127 (for Allegheny County authority). At this time the application is under review. Once the review is completed, it will be scheduled for publication also.

Please know that the safety of the riding public and the drivers is important to the Commission as it is to you. I have taken the liberty of providing your letter to the Secretary's Bureau for inclusion in the record in these cases.

Again, thank you for your letter. If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 787-3256.

Sincerely,

June M. Perry, Director
Office of Legislative Affairs

cc: Chairman Robert F. Powelson
Secretary's Bureau

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