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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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LEGISLATIVE DATA PROCESSING COMMITTEE  
PIAA OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

April 24, 2014

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

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.

On the surface the potential for a new way of transporting the public to and from their destination is exciting. I fully support an environment that welcomes new competitive services as long as they are responsible and respectful of the laws designed to protect all of our citizens.

A recent media report indicated that one of these companies; Lyft as well as Yellow Cab Co. of Pittsburgh under the name of "Yellow X" have filed application for experimental service with the PUC. As a member of the House Consumer Affairs Committee and the Insurance Committee I want to be certain that the insurance requirements Lyft and Yellow X have proposed in their applications are adequate.

After a quick search of the internet I found a news story regarding questions about a ridesharing company's liability and responsibility to pay insurance claims. The example involves Lyft's attempt to enter the market in Minneapolis, MN. Following below is an excerpt from that article which highlights some of the concerns raised by the City of Minneapolis.

*"In Minneapolis, officials say they have "no evidence" that Lyft operates with commercial or personal liability insurance capable of covering drivers or passengers. That "leaves a serious gap in protecting customers and drivers," according to the city's official statement. "Ensuring that the proper insurance is in place is one of the reasons we require licensing in the first place."*

- TheAtlanticCities.com 4/9/14

RECEIVED  
14 APR 28 AM 10:30  
CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

RECEIVED  
2014 APR 29 AM 7:59  
PA P.U.C.  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU


"SERVING ALLEGHENY & BEAVER COUNTIES"

I am very concerned for the safety and wellbeing of my constituents and all residents and visitors to our Commonwealth. To ensure the safety of the riding public, I believe at the very least the PUC should require all ride sharing vehicles in Allegheny County and elsewhere to carry adequate insurance, that vehicles are inspected and drivers complete background checks.

I believe there is a level of expectation from the consumer when choosing a taxi or limousine that they have certain consumer protections. That same level of expectation should be held for a passenger in any ridesharing company vehicle. The PUC is in position and has the responsibility to ensure those consumer protections are in place.

Your review and consideration of my recommendations and concerns is greatly appreciated.

Thank you and please keep me informed of all developments.

Sincerely,  
  
ROBERT F. MATZIE  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CC: PUC Commissioner John Coleman, Vice Chairman  
PUC Commissioner Gladys Brown  
PUC Commissioner James Cawley  
PUC Commissioner Pamela Witmer  
Rep. Robert Godshall, Majority Chairman, House Consumer Affairs Committee  
Rep. Peter Daley, Minority Chairman, House Consumer Affairs Committee



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