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## House of Representatives COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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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

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.

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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

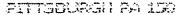
Rep. Peter Daley, Minority Chairman, House Consumer Affairs Committee



## House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

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