

#2014.015

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Senate of Pennsylvania

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SENATE MAJORITY POLICY COMMITTEE

April 10, 2014

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

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

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CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Dear Chairman Powelson:

I understand the PUC has sole jurisdiction over the regulation of taxi service in Allegheny County. As a proponent of the free market system, I am very supportive of allowing new competition to operate in Allegheny County -- and so I welcome Uber and Lyft.

However, as a former law enforcement officer, I am very concerned that these two entities are operating in Pennsylvania without regard to regulatory law. At a minimum, these new ridesharing companies must provide the highest standards in commercial liability insurance, driver background checks, and vehicle inspections that the other counties in Pennsylvania receive every day. A passenger in a Lyft or Uber vehicle should be afforded the same protections as a passenger in a taxi cab. It is the PUC's responsibility to ensure that these protections are in place for the riding public.

These safety requirements should have been in place before these new ridesharing companies began to operate in Allegheny County. Their indifference to contacting the PUC regarding regulatory law to say the least is very upsetting to me and suggests a tone of arrogance.

I ask that you take immediate and appropriate action to ensure that public protections are in place - and to foster a fair and competitive environment for the delivery of taxi services to the public.

Sincerely,

Randy Vulakovich
Senator Randy Vulakovich

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PA PUC
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- Commissioner John Coleman, Vice Chairman
 - Commissioner Gladys Brown
 - Commissioner James Cawley
 - Commissioner Pamela Witmer
 - Sen. Robert Tomlinson, Chair, Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee
 - Sen. Lisa Boscola, Minority Chair, Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee
 - Rep. Bob Godshall, Chair, House Consumer Affairs Committee
 - Rep. Peter Daley, Minority Chair, Consumer Affairs Committee
 - Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald
 - Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto