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*The Democratic Leader*



Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS,  
MINORITY CHAIRMAN

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April 28, 2014

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

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

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

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**Re: Applications for Experimental Ride Sharing Services in the City of Pittsburgh**

Dear Chairman Powelson,

As you know, I represent a significant part of the City of Pittsburgh. As such, I have paid close attention to the recent entry of ridesharing companies into Southwestern Pennsylvania and the city in particular. Although I am generally supportive of the idea that the use of new technology such as a "ride-sharing app" may assist in providing transportation services in the city and surrounding communities, I am very concerned about the safety of my constituents and any individuals who may utilize this method of transportation.

Companies such as Uber and Lyft are currently operating in Allegheny County without formal approval of the PUC and may not be following existing rules applicable to common carriers designed to keep passengers, drivers and the community safe. These companies should be restricted from operating in Allegheny County until the PUC has approved such service and developed rules or oversight designed to keep passengers, drivers and the community safe.

I am advised that several of ride sharing companies have applied for "Experimental Services" authority from the Commission. If this is the case, I believe that all Pennsylvania residents deserve the highest safety standards, and I formally request that you develop requirements that, at a minimum, mandate all ridesharing companies to carry the same commercial auto liability insurance as is required today of all taxis ( Form E ). Additionally, those vehicles should follow safe vehicle maintenance practices and require driver background checks.

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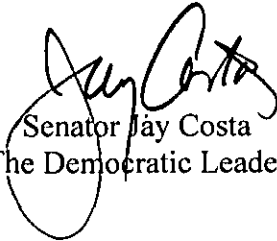
PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

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Senator Jay Costa  
Page Two

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Senator Jay Costa  
The Democratic Leader.

cc:

Commissioner John F. Coleman  
Commissioner James. H. Cawley  
Commissioner Pamela A. Witmer  
Commissioner Gladys M. Brown  
June Perry

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Senate of Pennsylvania

43RD DISTRICT  
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