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June 2, 2014

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

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JUN - 4 2014

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE
14 JUN - 3 PM 12:00
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RE: Docket Nos. A-2014-2415047; A-2014-2415045; A-2014-2416127

Dear Chairman Powelson:

I am writing to you regarding my concerns with the applications submitted by Lyft, Inc. and Raisier-PA, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Uber Technologies, Inc. (collectively the "Applicants") seeking authority to transport passengers by motor vehicle between points in Pennsylvania and Allegheny County.

As you may know, my legislative district covers many areas serviced by traditional call or demand transportation providers, including the Philadelphia International Airport. These transportation providers, mostly taxicabs, are required to comply with and do comply with, the stringent regulations set forth by the Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA), the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) and the Pennsylvania Legislature, yet the Applicants are attempting to circumvent these regulations at the public's expense. It is the responsibility of the PPA and the PUC to ensure that these regulations are enforced for all transportation providers, including the Applicants.

I agree with the comments of my fellow legislators regarding the points they raise about the Applicants' inadequate insurance, driver background checks and vehicle age and inspection requirements. Additionally, I would like to point out that the Applicants are essentially asking for a waiver of every single regulation that pertains to transportation providers in Pennsylvania. This is especially disturbing considering the Applicants have already been operating in Pennsylvania while ignoring the existing regulatory framework.

Not only have the Applicants requested exceptions to a majority of the PPA and PUC regulations, but Lyft, Inc., in an especially troubling move, has proposed that members of the public be precluded from inspecting the records submitted to the PPA and the PUC by Lyft, Inc. (See paragraph 7 of Attachment A of Lyft, Inc.'s application). This proposal is in direct opposition to the Pennsylvania Right-To-Know Law and the federal Freedom of Information Act.

Robert F. Powelson, Chairman
June 2, 2014


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Pennsylvania's Office of Open Records states in-part: "Ensuring open and honest government is a bedrock principle of democracy. It can only be attained through the unfettered exchange of information between citizens and their government. A citizen's right-to-know, sometimes known as freedom of information, fosters accountability, prevents abuses of power and promotes trust in government."

A public transportation provider regulated by the PPA and the PUC should not be able to exclude the very people it serves from reviewing its records. Such a proposal is egregious.

I ask that you take appropriate action to ensure the enforcement of the laws designated to protect our citizens and to ensure that no regulated entity acts above the law. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


MARIA P. DONATUCCI
State Representative
185th Legislative District

cc: PUC Commissioner John Coleman, Vice-Chairman
PUC Commissioner Gladys Brown
PUC Commissioner James Cawley
PUC Commissioner Pamela Witmer
Governor Tom Corbett
Senator Dominic Pileggi
Kathleen G. Kane, Attorney General
Michael F. Consedine, Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner
Terry Mutchler, Executive Director, Office of Open Records
Garth Shipman, Executive Director, House Insurance Committee
PPA Executive Director Vincent J. Fenerty