

TO: SEC for public comment folder

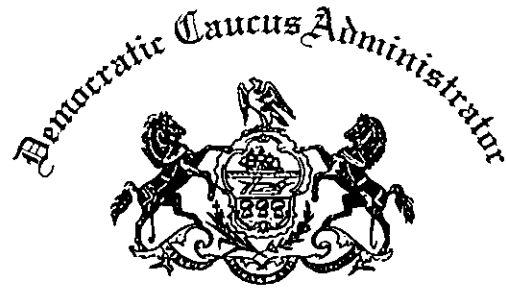
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Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

- COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DEMOCRATIC CHAIR
- ETHICS AND OFFICIAL CONDUCT
- JUDICIARY
- LAW & JUSTICE
- POLICY
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July 9, 2014

The Honorable Robert F. Powelson
Chairman, Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
Third Floor, Room N-304
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

A-2014-2415045
A-2014-2416127

RECEIVED
14 JUL -9 PM 4:36
CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Dear Chairman Powelson:

I am writing in regard to the applications currently before the Commission by Lyft and Uber for the right to operate as Transportation Network Services under experimental licenses within Allegheny County. I respectfully encourage the Commission to give favorable consideration to the two applications as soon as possible.

As you know, these services provide an alternative fee-based transportation option that connects passengers with a ride using smart phone technology. This is a promising and modern concept that has been beneficial to thousands of citizens and visitors in our region.

Because the transportation services these companies offer are a new enterprise in our Commonwealth, they unfortunately do not have the necessary licensing under Pennsylvania law. To that end, I have introduced legislation in the Senate – Senate Bill 1457 – that would provide a permanent remedy to the situation by establishing a process and criteria which the transportation network systems must follow in order to operate while under the oversight of the Commission. While I am appreciative of the Commission's cooperation and support of the legislation, the General Assembly cannot address the legislation until we reconvene for the fall legislative session.

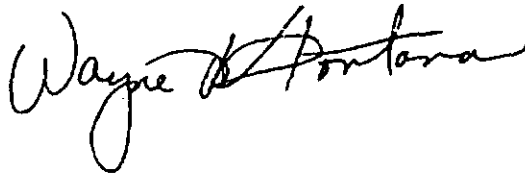
The clear message that I have received from hundreds of my constituents and visitors to the City of Pittsburgh, is that this type of alternative transportation option should be made available to riders in our area. While we continue to work on advancing Senate Bill 1457 through the legislative process, I believe it is vital to Allegheny County's transportation network that the Commission act expeditiously to approve the experimental license applications in the interim.

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We should collectively do all we can to encourage this innovative transportation option, while implementing reasonable licensing and safety requirements and proper oversight. In order to do so, the two-pronged approach to solving this issue that I have outlined will provide short-term relief and a long term solution.

Again, I strongly urge the Commission to promptly grant approval of the experimental license applications by Lyft and Uber. Thank you for your attention to this important matter

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne D. Fontana". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "W".

Wayne D. Fontana
State Senator, 42nd Senatorial District

WF/cd



Senate of Pennsylvania

42ND DISTRICT

WAYNE D. FONTANA

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HAND DELIVER

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