

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

RECEIVED

July 23, 2014

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

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

A-2014-2432309

Dear Chairman Powelson and Commissioners:

I write today to convey my support for, and urge the approval of, the emergency, temporary applications of Uber and Lyft to operate experimental service in Pennsylvania, under restrictions set forth in Senate Bill 1457 (SB 1457), proposed by Senator Wayne D. Fontana.

As Allegheny County Executive, I can tell you that I frequently hear that the transportation needs of those in the Pittsburgh region are not being met by the current carriers. Ride sharing services fill gaps in the transportation infrastructure here and there is an immediate need for their inclusion in our county. Uber and Lyft offer an innovative technology that is particularly attractive to young people in our community. Their service model provides residents and visitors access to safe, economic and reliable transportation.

I am a former Yellow Cab driver myself and fully understand the need to ensure the public safety and regulate operations such as these and respect the Public Utility Commission's role in that undertaking. I believe that requiring that the companies operate under restrictions set forth in SB 1457 fully addresses that concern while still fulfilling the need of our residents and visitors in the here and now. This arrangement would strike a balance between public safety and customer demand, and benefit the greater good of strengthening our transportation infrastructure.

Now is the time to embrace new ideas and opportunities, and to be progressive and competitive in our thinking. I urge the PUC to approve these applications so that we may work cooperatively to allow our region to continue to grow. Should you have any questions for me regarding the need in Allegheny County, or the general climate here for transportation, I am happy to assist.

Sincerely,

Rich Fitzgerald

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