

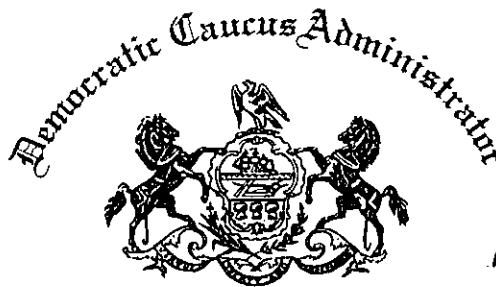
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Senate of Pennsylvania

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A-2014-2429993

July 16, 2014

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

Dear Chairman Powelson:

I am writing with regard to the Public Utility Commission Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation's recent letter to Board Secretary Chiavetta in which they claim that the temporary emergency application filed by Rasier PA, the subsidiary of Uber Technologies, does not present an immediate need for service in the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County and therefore, it is their determination that an emergency license to operate is unnecessary.

I was disheartened by the assertion that the need for transportation network services is not immediate and do not agree with this conclusion. As a lifelong resident of the city and as an elected official who has heard from countless constituents, area residents and visitors, I can confirm that is not the case. The overwhelming demand for this service alone dictates the need for service.

While I understand that we must address the issue through a permanent remedy such as updating our laws to allow for the regulation and oversight of such companies through legislation like the bill I have authored in the Senate – Senate Bill 1457, we must also recognize the importance of moving forward in the interim.

In my opinion, the number one issue that must be considered while evaluating the temporary emergency application is safety. I have addressed that issue thoroughly from driver requirements and passenger rights to insurance and liability coverage in the legislation I have proposed. If the Commission can work with Rasier and others who may apply to ensure they meet the criteria we collectively demand of them to ensure passengers are picked up and transported in a secure manner and with proper coverage, I cannot see a valid reason why they should not be granted temporary emergency authority.

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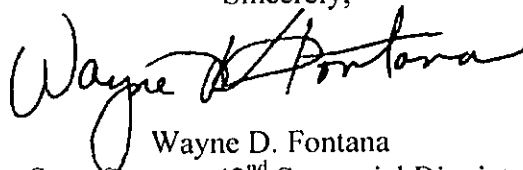
The fact of the matter is that the alternative cab service has proven to be insufficient in our region for quite some time. This is exactly the reason why transportation network companies were a welcome and necessary addition to the market. I represent several city neighborhoods in Pittsburgh as well as many suburban communities, all of which have their own diversity and unique needs.

From the South Side and Strip District where young adults gather at numerous bars and restaurants on a daily basis to the North Shore area location of our sports venues, transportation network companies have provided a reliable, safe alleviation to the problem of people driving *under the influence*.

With regard to our suburban boroughs and townships throughout the county where many residents travel to and from the city for work, the need for transportation network services is real. Over the last several years, mass transit has become more difficult to access for individuals not living in close proximity to a bus or light rail main line. Even the enactment of transportation funding last year that will provide a more sustainable funding stream to mass transit will not allow for the immediate restoration of many of the service routes that have been eliminated. This new ride share service can immediately supplement our existing mass transit system by providing options for individuals that have a difficult time accessing main line routes whether they live in *city neighborhoods or the suburbs*.

As you can see, to imply that there is no immediate need for service in Allegheny County is inaccurate. As public servants, it is our duty to meet the needs of those we represent while maintaining that their health, safety and welfare are priority. In encouraging support for the approval of the temporary emergency authority application of Rasier, I believe I am doing just that. I urge the Commission to consider this request on behalf of those citizens of Allegheny County. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne D. Fontana". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wayne" and last name "Fontana" clearly legible.

Wayne D. Fontana  
State Senator, 42<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District



*Senate of Pennsylvania*

42ND DISTRICT

**WAYNE D. FONTANA**

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**HAND DELIVER**

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