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March 23, 2016

Re: PHN Charitable Foundation
Proposed Rulemaking Order
Docket No. L-2015-2507592
Our File: 5561

Ms. Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

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Dear Ms. Chiavetta:

We enclose for filing with the Commission the signed original of the Comments of PHN Charitable Foundation in opposition to the Proposed Rulemaking Order at Docket No. L-2015-2507592.

Please acknowledge receipt and filing of the enclosed on the duplicate copy of this letter of transmittal and return it to the undersigned in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided.

Very truly yours,

VUONO & GRAY, LLC

William A. Gray

mm/161678

Enclosures

cc: PHN Charitable Foundation (w/enc.)

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

MAR 23 2016

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Before the
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

RE: PROPOSED RULEMAKING ORDER
DOCKET NO. L-2015-2507592

RECEIVED

MAR 23 2016

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

COMMENTS OF WILLIAM ROTUNNA
ON BEHALF OF PHN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED RULEMAKING ORDER

The Commission published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin dated February 27, 2016, a proposed rulemaking order to amend the existing regulations governing paratransit carriers to eliminate the public demand or need requirement. PHN Charitable Foundation ("PHN Charitable") objects to the proposal to eliminate this requirement.

The business address of PHN Charitable is 55 Pitt Street, Sharon, PA 16146. PHN Charitable has authority at Docket No. A-6414300 authorizing it to provide paratransit service from points in the counties of Mercer, Lawrence, Crawford and Butler to points in Pennsylvania. PHN Charitable has provided service under its PUC authority on a regular, continuing basis since it was first certificated on January 16, 2013.

As will be discussed below, PHN Charitable believes that the Commission should continue to handle paratransit applications in the same manner that it has previously handled such applications.

PHN Charitable believes that there is a need to regulate the number of paratransit companies that can provide intrastate service in Pennsylvania and, in particular, in this territory

which PHN Charitable is authorized to serve, which is a more rural area. If the public demand/need requirement is eliminated, the obvious result will be that anyone that wants to secure paratransit authority will be able to secure such authority. There is already substantial competition involving paratransit service in this area and the addition of new companies in the area may cause existing companies to go out of business.

Most companies in our area who provide paratransit service are small companies who have built their business on providing local service to the public. The addition of the new competition that will result will have a negative financial effect on these companies which will far outweigh any benefit to the public. Existing companies have invested significant time and financial resources to obtain their authority and provide the service required by the public.

PHN Charitable has made a substantial investment to provide service in our community. This investment will be substantially in jeopardy if the proposed changes are put into effect.

For all of the above reasons, PHN Charitable Foundation opposes the proposed change set forth in the Pennsylvania Bulletin dated February 27, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

VUONO & GRAY, LLC

By: _____

William A. Gray, Esq.

Attorneys for
PHN Charitable Foundation

VUONO & GRAY, LLC
310 Grant Street, Suite 2310
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
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/161538

VERIFICATION

I verify that the statements made in the foregoing document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. §4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

William Rotunna

William Rotunna
Transportation Administrator

Dated: 3-17-16

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MAR 23 2016

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TO:

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Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
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