

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

**Application of Raiser-PA, LLC for
Transportation Network Service License**

**Public Meeting January 26, 2017
2580821-TUS
Docket No. A-2016-2580821**

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ROBERT F. POWELSON

Before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) today is an application filed by Raiser-PA, LLC (Uber) for a license to operate as a Transportation Network Company (TNC) in Pennsylvania. Uber filed this application pursuant to the Act 164 legislation that provides a path for TNCs to obtain permanent statewide operating authority in the Commonwealth. This is a great milestone in the Commission's pursuit of embracing innovation and supporting new entrants into the transportation regulatory landscape.

I would like to commend the General Assembly for passing Act 164 and paving the way for this innovative transportation service to thrive in Pennsylvania. In a very short period of time, TNCs have revolutionized the nation's transportation industry. As we witnessed firsthand during the 2-year period when Uber operated under experimental authority granted by the Commission, consumers have benefitted greatly from the initiation of this competitive service. TNCs like Uber provide customers with a reliable, affordable, and user-friendly transportation alternative that did not exist 5 years ago. By relying on the digital platform for all aspects of the trip – from booking to payment – TNCs also provide riders with a safe option that eliminates the need for street hail or the exchange of cash. These safety features, combined with the carefully crafted insurance, driver safety, and vehicle safety requirements set forth in Act 164, should leave consumers feeling confident that they are well-protected when riding in a TNC vehicle.

The success that TNCs have experienced in Pennsylvania demonstrates that customers want the added convenience and security that this new service provides, and that traditional taxicabs are no longer the default option. In order to keep the transportation market competitive, I encourage Pennsylvania's taxicab companies to rise to the challenge and innovate as well.

From the beginning, the Commission has been consistent in supporting legislation that paves the way for permanent TNC service in Pennsylvania. Today, I am pleased to see that vision become a reality. Now that TNCs can permanently operate in Pennsylvania, I am looking forward to a bright future where Uber and other innovative companies can flourish and continue to innovate in the Commonwealth.

Date: January 26, 2017



**ROBERT F. POWELSON
COMMISSIONER**