

Buchanan

Tanya C. Leshko
717 237 4868
tanya.leshko@bipc.com

409 North Second Street
Suite 500
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1357
T 717 237 4800
F 717 233 0852

September 29, 2025

VIA E-FILING

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, Second Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Application of First Choice Home & Community Services, Inc.
Docket No: A-2025-3055701

Dear Secretary Homsher:

Enclosed for electronic filing please find the Joint Protest of Bux-Mont Transportation., Easton Coach Company, Suburban Transit Network, Inc. and Tri County Transit Service, Inc. in the above-captioned proceeding.

Copies are being served in accordance with the attached Certificate of Service. Please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Tanya C. Leshko

TCL/psm

Enclosure
cc: Certificate of Service

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Application of First Choice Home & :
Community Services, Inc. to transport, as a :
common carrier, by motor vehicle, persons : Docket No. A-2025-3055701
in paratransit service, from points in the :
Counties of Delaware and Montgomery, and :
the City and County of Philadelphia, to :
points in Pennsylvania, and return. :

**JOINT PROTEST OF BUX-MONT TRANSPORTATION, INC., EASTON COACH
COMPANY, SUBURBAN TRANSIT NETWORK, INC., AND TRI COUNTY TRANSIT
SERVICE, INC.**

Bux-Mont Transportation, Inc. (“Bux-Mont”), Easton Coach Company (“Easton”),
Suburban Transit Network, Inc. (“TransNet”), and Tri County Transit Service, Inc. (“Tri
County”) (collectively, the “Joint Protestants”), by and through their attorneys, hereby file this
Joint Protest to the above referenced Application pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §§ 3.381(c), 5.51, and
state as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION / PROTESTANTS

1. Bux-Mont’s full name and address is:

Bux-Mont Transportation, Inc.
726 Fitzwatertown Rd.
Willow Grove, PA 19090
215-659-8865

- Easton’s full name and address is:

Easton Coach Company
1200 Conroy Place
Easton, PA 18040
610-252-8667

TransNet's full name and address is:

Suburban Transit Network, Inc.
Union Meeting Corporate Center
980 Harvest Drive, Suite 100
Blue Bell, PA 19422
215-542-7433

Tri County's full name and address is:

Tri County Transit Service, Inc.
110 Industrial Parkway
Sanatoga, PA 19464
610-495-5640

The name, address and telephone number of Joint Protestants' attorneys are:

Tanya C. Leshko (PA I.D. #78787) (Primary Contact)
John F. Povilaitis (PA I.D. #28944)
Alan Michael Seltzer (PA I.D. #27890)
BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC
409 North Second Street, Suite 500
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1357
717-237-4800
tanya.leshko@bipc.com
john.povilaitis@bipc.com
alan.seltzer@bipc.com

The Joint Protestants request that all pleadings, correspondence and other documents in this matter be directed to their attorneys.

II. JOINT PROTESTANTS' INTEREST IN THE APPLICATION

2. Bux-Mont holds authority from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PaPUC" or "Commission") to transport persons as a common carrier in paratransit service between points in Bucks County and to points in the counties of Montgomery and Philadelphia, and return. As a carrier in the paratransit industry operating where First Choice Home & Community Services, Inc. ("Applicant" or "First Choice") proposes to offer service, Bux-Mont has a substantial interest in ensuring that the public is served by carriers that have sufficient

technical expertise, financial capacity and a propensity to operate safely and legally, as required by the Commission and applicable law. Bux-Mont currently holds PaPUC authority and operates under the following authorizations: Docket No. A-00087075, Folders 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; Docket No. A-00087075, Folders 2, 3, 3 Am-A, 4; Docket No. A-00087075, Folders 5/A-2009-2123552, 5 Am-A; Docket No. A-00087075, Folder 6; Docket No. A-00087075, Folder 7.

3. Easton holds authority from the PaPUC to transport persons as a common carrier in paratransit service between points in the borough of Norristown, Montgomery County, between points in the borough of Norristown and within an airline distance of five (5) miles of the limits of the Borough of Norristown, and in the township of Whitemarsh, Montgomery County. As a carrier in the paratransit industry operating where the Applicant proposes to offer service, Easton has a substantial interest in ensuring that the public is served by carriers that have sufficient technical expertise, financial capacity and a propensity to operate safely and legally, as required by the Commission and applicable law. Easton currently holds PaPUC paratransit authority and operates under the following authorizations: Docket No. A-00118835/A-2014-2415540.

4. TransNet holds authority from the PaPUC to transport persons as a common carrier in paratransit service between points in Montgomery County and from points in Montgomery County to points in the counties of Chester, Delaware, Philadelphia and Bucks and return. As a carrier in the paratransit industry operating where the Applicant proposes to offer service, TransNet has a substantial interest in ensuring that the public is served by carriers that have sufficient technical expertise, financial capacity and a propensity to operate safely and legally, as required by the Commission. TransNet currently holds PaPUC authority and operates

under the following authorizations: Docket No. A-00102219, F.2; Docket No. A-00102219, F.1, Am-A.

5. Tri County holds authority from the PaPUC to transport persons as a common carrier in paratransit service between points in the borough of Pottstown, Montgomery County, and within an airline distance of fifteen (15) miles of the limits of the Borough of Pottstown. As a carrier in the paratransit industry operating where the Applicant proposes to offer service, Tri County has a substantial interest in ensuring that the public is served by carriers that have sufficient technical expertise, financial capacity and a propensity to operate safely and legally, as required by the Commission and applicable law. Tri County currently holds PaPUC authority and operates under the following authorizations: Docket No. A-00112826, F.2.

6. The Applicant has sought Commission authority to provide paratransit service in geographic territories that overlap with geographic areas in which the Joint Protestants currently provide paratransit service. The Applicant has requested authority in a large portion of southeastern Pennsylvania by proposing to transport in paratransit service, from all points located in the Counties of Delaware and Montgomery and the City and County of Philadelphia. As such, the Joint Protestants have a substantial interest in the outcome of this Application proceeding that will not be addressed by any other participant.

III. GROUNDS FOR PROTEST

7. As the proponent of an order seeking the issuance of a certificate of public convenience, the Applicant carries the burden of proof. 66 Pa.C.S. § 332(a). First Choice has not made a sufficient and adequate showing that it possesses, or is likely to possess, sufficient technical and financial ability to allow the Commission to find or determine that granting a certificate of public convenience to the Applicant is necessary or proper for the service,

accommodation, convenience or safety of the public pursuant to Section 1103(a) of the Public Utility Code. 66 Pa.C.S. § 1103(a). In addition, First Choice has not made a sufficient and adequate showing that it is likely to operate safely when providing paratransit service.

8. The Applicant has failed to provide a sufficient description of its facilities, including a description of its physical location and the facility which will be utilized to house the vehicles, as required by the Commission's Application at ¶4 of the "Verified Statement of Applicant."

9. On the issue of technical fitness, the Applicant has made no showing that any of its principals or drivers possesses any prior managerial or operating experience in the paratransit transportation business. The Applicant purports to have experience in the non-medical transporting business but has failed to provide sufficient details regarding said experience. First Choice has not identified any employees, including dispatchers, who will be responsible for the conduct of the business that could take place throughout a substantial portion of Pennsylvania.

10. The Commission's Policy Statement on the evidentiary criteria used to decide motor carrier applications states that the Applicant has the burden to demonstrate compliance with fitness standards, including "[w]hether an applicant has sufficient capital, equipment, facilities and other resources necessary *to serve the territory requested.*" (emphasis added) 52 Pa. Code § 41.14(1). First Choice possesses two vehicles, both of which are 10 years or older. Those vehicles exceed the Commission's ten-year age limit for call or demand service pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 29.314(c). Although that regulation applies to call or demand service and not specifically to paratransit service, it is a logical guideline for safety. Should the Applicant commence business with the listed older vehicles, this is inadequate for the three-county service territory requested. Further, the Application does not specifically indicate how any of the

vehicles are equipped with the medical or handicap devices for the safe access and transport of persons in both wheelchairs and stretchers appropriate to paratransit service.

11. The Applicant has not demonstrated that it is sufficiently familiar with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation vehicle equipment inspection standards in order to ensure the Commission that the applicable standards are and will be met at all times when its vehicles are being operated as required by Commission regulations. 52 Pa. Code § 29.402(1). Therefore, First Choice has not demonstrated that it will have a propensity to operate safely if authorized to commence its proposed service.

12. The Applicant has also failed to provide sufficient evidence of financial fitness. The Applicant has not provided adequate details in connection to its financial position. There is no indication Applicant is prepared to follow generally accepted accounting principles in its record keeping, as required by the Commission. 52 Pa. Code § 29.41(a). The Applicant has not provided a complete financial statement. There is no indication the business will have sufficient liquidity in the form of a line of credit, sufficient cash or other funding sources available to cover the reasonable and customary costs of operating its proposed service. The adequacy of the business assets cannot be evaluated and found sufficient because no business expenses have been estimated. The Applicant has provided no information in the Application indicating it has taken into account normal business expenses, such as the cost of vehicles, vehicle maintenance expense, marking of vehicles or salaries of drivers. Nor has any projection of likely income from the paratransit service business been provided.

13. The grounds for Protest are not limited to the above but are by way of example. Protestants reserve the right to supplement the basis for this Protest as information is developed.

WHEREFORE, for all the foregoing reasons, the Joint Protestants respectfully request that they be granted full party status in this proceeding as Protestants and, absent a resolution of this proceeding in the next sixty (60) days, that hearings be scheduled so that the Commission may develop an evidentiary record concerning the issues raised in this Joint Protest, and that the Application of First Choice Home & Community Services, Inc. be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC




Tanya C. Leshko, Esquire
John F. Povilaitis, Esquire
Alan M. Seltzer, Esquire
409 N. Second Street, Suite 500
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1357
717 237-4800
tanya.leshko@bipc.com
john.povilaitis@bipc.com
alan.seltzer@bipc.com

*Attorneys for Bux-Mont Transportation, Inc.,
Easton Coach Company, Suburban Transit
Network, Inc. and Tri County Transit Service, Inc.*

Dated: September 29, 2025

VERIFICATION

I, James A. Raymond, certify that I am Chief Financial Officer of Bucks County Transport, Inc., and that in this capacity I am authorized to, and do make this Verification on their behalf, that the facts set forth in the foregoing document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and that Bucks County Transport, Inc. expects to be able to prove the same at any hearing that may be held in this matter. I understand that false statements made therein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsifications to authorities.



James A. Raymond, CFO
Bucks County Transport, Inc.

DATED: September 29, 2025

VERIFICATION

I, R. Samuel Valenza, certify that I am President and Chief Executive Officer of Bux-Mont Transportation, Inc., and that in this capacity I am authorized to, and do make this Verification on their behalf, that the facts set forth in the foregoing document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and that Bux-Mont Transportation, Inc. expects to be able to prove the same at any hearing that may be held in this matter. I understand that false statements made therein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsifications to authorities.



R. Samuel Valenza, President & CEO
Bux-Mont Transportation, Inc.

DATED: September 29, 2025

VERIFICATION

I, Mark Glatz, certify that I am Executive Vice President of Easton Coach Company, and that in this capacity I am authorized to, and do make this Verification on their behalf, that the facts set forth in the foregoing document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and that Easton Coach Company expects to be able to prove the same at any hearing that may be held in this matter. I understand that false statements made therein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsifications to authorities.

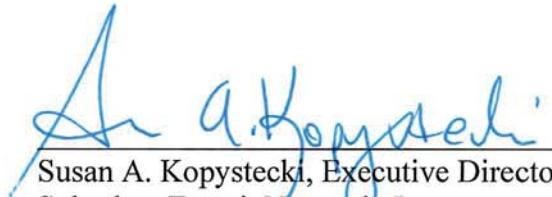


Mark Glatz, EVP
Easton Coach Company

DATED: September 29, 2025

VERIFICATION

I, Susan A. Kopystecki, certify that I am Executive Director of Suburban Transit Network, Inc., and that in this capacity I am authorized to, and do make this Verification on their behalf, that the facts set forth in the foregoing document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and that Suburban Transit Network, Inc. expects to be able to prove the same at any hearing that may be held in this matter. I understand that false statements made therein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsifications to authorities.



Susan A. Kopystecki, Executive Director
Suburban Transit Network, Inc.

DATED: September 29, 2025

VERIFICATION

I, James P. Tammaro, certify that I am General Manager of Tri County Transit Service, Inc., and that in this capacity I am authorized to, and do make this Verification on their behalf, that the facts set forth in the foregoing document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and that Tri County Transit Service, Inc. expects to be able to prove the same at any hearing that may be held in this matter. I understand that false statements made therein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsifications to authorities.



James P. Tammaro, General Manager
Tri County Transit Service, Inc.

DATED: September 29, 2025

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Application of First Choice Home & :
Community Services, Inc. to transport, as a :
common carrier, by motor vehicle, persons in : Docket No. A-2025-3055701
paratransit service from points in the :
Counties of Delaware and Montgomery and :
the City and County of Philadelphia, to points :
in Pennsylvania and return :

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that this day I served a copy of the foregoing document upon the persons listed below in the manner indicated in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54.

Via Email and Regular Mail:

Abdulia Tall, President and CEO
First Choice Home & Community Services, Inc.
1349 Chester Pike
Sharon Hill, PA 19709
atall@fchcs.net

Date: September 29, 2025



Tanya C. Leshko