

**Honorable George Kenney
State Representative Emeritus
170th District
Philadelphia, PA 19116**

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August 5, 2011

Silvan B. Lutkewitte, III
Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: Philadelphia Parking Authority Regulations
Regulation ID Number: 26-1 (IRRC Number: 2885)

Dear Chairman  Lutkewitte:

In 2004, I along with a bipartisan group of House members from Philadelphia introduced House Bill 2654 to address the unacceptable conditions and practices of too many taxicab and limousine service providers in Philadelphia. I was pleased when HB 2654 became Act 94. Over the past several years, I have witnessed the steady improvement to the condition of these important parts of our region's economy under the regulatory oversight of the Philadelphia Parking Authority ("Authority").

I believed that the Authority could bring meaningful change to taxicab and limousine service and I continue to hold that opinion. The final-form regulations now before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission ("Commission") will continue the regulatory process in place in Philadelphia since 2005. I understand that some taxicab and limousine companies have refused to permit their vehicles to be inspected by the Authority or to use drivers approved for service based on alleged confusion related to the status of the Authority's current local regulations. These Commonwealth agency regulations are needed urgently to discontinue those unsafe practices and bring certainty and stability back to taxicab and limousine activities in Philadelphia.

I write to recommend the IRRC Commissioners approve the Authority's final-form rulemaking at your August 25, 2011 meeting. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


George Kenney