

GREATER PHILADELPHIA  
HOTEL ASSOCIATION

2885

August 2, 2011

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

RECEIVED  
IRRC  
2011 AUG - 8 P 2:31

Dear Chairman Lutkewitte:

This letter is in regard to the Philadelphia Parking Authority's (PPA) recently released final form of the Taxicab and Limousine Regulations, which are now being reviewed by your Commission members. I want to register my strong support for the Philadelphia Parking Authority's Taxicab and Limousine regulatory program including the final form regulations.

While I am aware of the legal challenges the PPA has faced I am disappointed that many of the proposed changes that would have provided significant service upgrades were removed. As the Executive Director of the Greater Philadelphia Hotel Association, an association representing all hotels in Center City, I find it appalling and unacceptable that several companies that provide for-hire vehicles have not complied with the PPA's regulations. Often a taxi cab is the first and last impression a visitor has of Philadelphia and I continually hear that the current standards are unacceptable in comparison to other major cities that we compete with for conventions and leisure guests.

If the PPA's regulatory position is not reaffirmed through this process, I fear that this situation can only further deteriorate in regards to the level of service provided to Philadelphians and our visitors.

Thank you for your kind attention to the above.

Sincerely,



Ed Grose  
President  
Greater Philadelphia Hotel Association