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COUNCILWOMAN - 7TH DISTRICT

September 21, 2011

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

Re: Philadelphia Taxicab and Limousine Regulations
Final Rulemaking (Agency/ID No. 126; IRRC No. 2885)

Dear Chairman Lutkewitte:

As Vice Chair of the Committee on Streets and Services, I write to respectfully request the approval of the Philadelphia Parking Authority's ("Authority") final-form taxicab and limousine regulations.

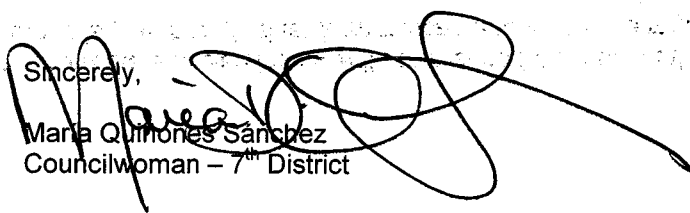
I understand that the review of the Authority's regulations will involve a consideration of the fiscal impact that will result from their implementation. In my opinion, the Authority's decision to eliminate the progressive changes planned in its proposed regulations, in favor of preserving the status quo in Philadelphia, is appropriate and responsive to stakeholder input. I believe the requirements and procedures of the final-form regulations mirror those of the current local regulations and appear to have no fiscal impact.

Since 2005 when the Authority began regulating of taxicabs and limousines in Philadelphia, the condition and operation of those vehicles has noticeably improved. I am committed to working with the Authority to make additional strides in bringing wheelchair-accessible and 'green' vehicles to the City, among other advances in vehicles standards and consumer service. I understand that these issues will be addressed in subsequent rulemaking, where there will be better opportunity to obtain detailed financial analyses and public input.

I often interact with the Authority on the behalf of constituents in my District and find the agency to be very responsive to issues that affect both the traveling public and the people who work hard every day to provide taxicab and limousine service in Philadelphia. The Authority is in the unique position to provide oversight of the various vendors, and to ensure that all communities are being served via language accessibility, education, and outreach. I fully trust that advances will continue to be made in those crucial areas.

I urge the Members of the Commission to vote to approve the final-form regulations.

Sincerely,


Maria Quiñones Sánchez
Councilwoman - 7th District