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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

2885

July 28, 2011

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

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RECEIVED
IRRC

Re: Philadelphia Parking Authority
Final Rulemaking Order (Reg, ID 126-1, IRRC # 2885)

Dear Chairman Lutkewitte:

Act 94 of 2004 transferred the power to regulate taxicabs and limousines in Philadelphia from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to the Philadelphia Parking Authority. I sponsored Act 94 because I believed that local, yet independent, oversight of those important industries was more likely to bring about positive change. I agree with many who hold that a demanding and consistent body of regulations is crucial to the goal of providing high quality taxicab and limousine service in Philadelphia. However, I also understand that regulations need to permit flexibility and provide for the creation of opportunities for those who work so hard everyday to provide those services.

For example, § 1011.5 (relating to ineligibility due to conviction or arrest) of the proposed regulations now contains a new subsection (f) that will permit applicants for taxicab driver certificates, or other rights, to show that a past conviction should not inhibit the approval of an application. If a person is able to show that they have put such a conviction behind them and wish to earn a living in the taxicab or limousine business, without threat to the public, they should be able to so. The Authority's regulations now permit that type of flexibility, while continuing to demand high quality service to the public without the need to raise rates.

I respectfully request that the Independent Regulatory Review Commission approve the Authority's regulations at its August 25, 2011 meeting.

Sincerely,

Dwight Evans