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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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2885

August 5, 2011

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

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

Dear Chairman Lutkewitte:

I write in support of the Authority's above referenced regulations and to ask that the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) approve those regulations at its August 25, 2011 meeting.

I was a sponsor of Act 94 of 2004, which designated the Philadelphia Parking Authority (Authority) as the sole regulator of taxicabs and limousines in Philadelphia. I believe that the Authority's local presence in Philadelphia has brought about the heightened level of regulatory oversight needed in Philadelphia to address public concerns about service and safety. Act 94 has affected the exact type of change that I anticipated, through the regulations and orders of the Authority.

The House Appropriations Committee, of which I am a Member, reviews the annual budget and fee schedule of the Authority related to its enforcement of Act 94. The Authority has now participated in that process for 8 years. I have found the Authority's budget and fee schedule to be reasonable and well tailored toward providing high quality taxicab and limousine service in Philadelphia. The Authority has always been responsive to inquires from the Appropriations Committee during our annual review.

I understand the reasons that the Authority has opted to pursue promulgation of regulations through the state agency process. I also understand IRRC's important role. Your staff should be congratulated on administering a very challenging review of those regulations and for helping to bring about the Authority's final-form regulations. Those regulations have been heavily modified to remove the provisions that several commentators believed would increase operating costs.

The Philadelphia taxicab and limousine industry has always been contentious. Complete consensus on all of the issues affecting those service providers will never be reached, but the Authority's final-form regulations represent the type of cooperation and compromise that we want to see evidenced during the course of these rulemakings.

The regulations now before IRRC will maintain the existing regulatory structure in Philadelphia and further advance the purpose of Act 94. Any delay in the approval of these regulations will be detrimental to the public good in Philadelphia. I urge the IRRC Members to vote to approve the Authority's regulations.

Sincerely,

Jewell Williams, Member
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Chairman of the Philadelphia Delegation

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