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Kathy Cooper

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From: Liam Dougherty <liamdan266@gmail.com>
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To: IRRC; dweldon@philapark.org; James Ney
Subject: Comment in Support of PPA Proposed Rulemaking Order 126-11

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I wholeheartedly support the Philadelphia Parking Authority's Proposed Rulemaking Order 126-11, because I understand the need for an accessible taxicab system.

As a life-long Philadelphia resident with a mobility disability, I have struggled to find adequate transportation for years. I have tried (and sometimes failed) to fit my mobility scooter in the trunks of inaccessible cabs. Taxi drivers have tried to charge me more for helping me unload my assistive device. There have been many work opportunities, meetings, and family gatherings that I have not been able to access because there wasn't a good way to get to them. I live close to Baltimore Avenue with its expansive trolley line that is entirely inaccessible by wheelchair, with only possible change coming in the distant future.

There are more than 120,000 people with mobility disabilities in Philadelphia. All concerned parties should be convinced of the merits of this proposed legislation based on rectifying the blatant disregard for the civil rights of the disability community, shown by much of the current taxicab system. Perhaps taxicab companies would be convinced by looking at this huge group of people as a potential market that has, up until now, been disempowered to the point of not even trying to take one of Philadelphia's seven accessible cabs.

It is time for our city to take this important step to show its residents, visitors, and other cities all over the country that Philadelphia cares about everyone that uses its streets. I urge the commission to help us make this step toward justice and equality.

Liam Dougherty