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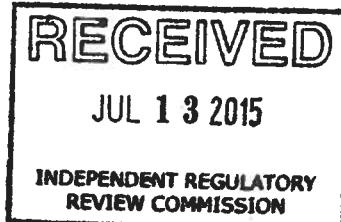
**Kathy Cooper**

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**From:** Helena Berger <elamanna@aapd.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2015 1:44 PM  
**To:** IRRC; dweldon@philapark.org; jney@philapark.org  
**Subject:** Philadelphia Parking Authority's Proposed Rulemaking Order 126-11

To:  
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I am pleased to support Philadelphia Parking Authority's Proposed Rulemaking Order 126-11 on behalf of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD). I commend the effort to increase independence and opportunities for people with disabilities by introducing these regulations which would require all vehicles proposed for taxicab service after a designated date to be wheelchair accessible.

AAPD is the nation's largest disability rights organization. We promote equal opportunity, economic power, independent living and political participation for people with disabilities. Our members, including people with disabilities and our family, friends, and supporters, represent a powerful force for change.

A fully accessible taxicab system is a vital component of any world-class city and reflects how a city respects the civil rights of its citizens and visitors. There are over 130,000 people with mobility disabilities in Philadelphia and 100,000s of disabled visitors every year. Currently, however, only 8 out of 1,599 taxis in Philadelphia are accessible.

Further, taxpayers are already paying to subsidize CCT Connect/Paratransit at an average of \$37/ride. With 50,000-70,000 rides per month, that's \$1.85M - \$2.59M per month. If Philadelphia's taxi system was fully accessible, the city could allocate a portion of that public money to offset costs to companies and drivers while providing equitable, integrated service to all Philadelphians.

We respectfully urge you to pass these critical regulations. Not only would the passage of this rulemaking make Philadelphia the first city in America with a fully integrated taxicab system, but the city would be making a meaningful step towards promoting self-sufficiency and independence for its vast and diverse disability community.

Respectfully,  
Helena Berger

Acting President and CEO  
American Association of People with Disabilities

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