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# **VUONO & GRAY, LLC**

310 Grant Street, Suite 2310 Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2383

March 23, 2016

Re: Jeannette E. M. S., Inc. Proposed Rulemaking Order Docket No. L-2015-2507592 Our File: 4434

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## MAILED WITH U.S. POSTAL SERVICE CERTIFICATE OF MAILING FORM 3817

Ms. Rosemary Chiavetta Secretary Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission P.O. Box 3265 Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Dear Ms. Chiavetta:

We enclose for filing with the Commission the signed original of the Comments of Jeannette E. M. S., Inc.in opposition to the Proposed Rulemaking Order at Docket No. L-2015-2507592.

Please acknowledge receipt and filing of the enclosed on the duplicate copy of this letter of transmittal and return it to the undersigned in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided.

Very truly yours,

VUONO & GRAY. LLC William A. Gray

mm/161697 Enclosures cc: Jeannette E. M. S., Inc. (w/enc.)

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# Before the PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

2016 MAR 29 PM 4:07

#### **RE: PROPOSED RULEMAKING ORDER**

DOCKET NO. L-2015-2507592

### COMMENTS OF RANDY HIGHLANDS ON BEHALF OF JEANNETTE E. M. S., INC. IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED RULEMAKING ORDER

The Commission published in the <u>Pennsylvania Bulletin</u> dated February 27, 2016, a proposed rulemaking order to amend the existing regulations governing passenger motor carriers to eliminate the public demand or need requirement for applications for authority. Jeannette E. M. S., Inc. ("Jeannette") objects to the proposal to eliminate this requirement.

The business address of Jeannette is 225 South Sixth Street, Jeannette, PA 15644. Jeannette has authority at Docket No. A-00114815 authorizing it to provide paratransit service between certain points in Westmoreland County, and from said points to points in Pennsylvania. Jeannette has provided service under its PUC authority on a regular, continuing basis since it was first certificated on September 3, 1997.

As will be discussed below, Jeannette believes that the Commission should continue to handle paratransit applications in the same manner that it has handled such applications in the past and continues to handle such applications at the present time.

Jeannette firmly believes that there is a need to regulate the number of paratransit companies that can provide service in Pennsylvania and, in particular, in the territory which Jeannette is authorized to serve. If the public demand/need requirement is eliminated, the obvious result will be that anyone that wants to secure paratransit authority will be able to secure such authority. There is already substantial competition in this industry and the addition of new companies in the industry may cause existing companies to go out of business.

Most of the paratransit service providers in our area are small operators who have built their business on providing local service to the public. The addition of the new competition that will result will have a negative financial effect on these companies which will far outweigh any benefit to the public. Existing companies have invested significant time and financial resources to provide the service required by the public.

Jeannette has made a substantial investment in its operating authority and in its equipment. This investment will be substantially in jeopardy if the proposed changes are put into effect.

For all of the above reasons, Jeannette E. M. S., Inc. opposes the proposed change set forth in the <u>Pennsylvania Bulletin</u> dated February 27, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

VUONO & GRAY, LLC By: William A. Gray, Esq.

Villiam A. Gray, Esq. Attorneys for Jeannette E. M. S., Inc.

VUONO & GRAY, LLC 310 Grant Street, Suite 2310 Pittsburgh, PA 15219 412-471-1800

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. . . VERIFICATION . . ... . . . . I verify that the statements made in the foregoing document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. §4904, relating to unsworn falsification to te sur sur estructure e authorities. Rand nds Director ef Obstrations Dated: 3/18/2016 .. . . . . . .. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . an a bat to an and a gale to an an an the former and the former and former and the former and the former former and the former former and the former and a second success of the data of second shall be and a second shall be ... . . . . . 20000 N. 12 12 3 .. . . . . . . . . .