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REPLY TO:



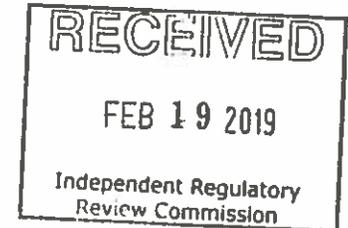
Senate of Pennsylvania

February 19, 2019

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PHILADELPHIA SENATE DELEGATION,
CHAIR



Mr. George D. Bedwick, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Chairman Bedwick,

I contact you today to express my full support for increasing the number of wheelchair accessible taxicabs in Philadelphia through the adoption of new regulations similar to those proposed by the Philadelphia Parking Authority in Regulation #126-11 (IRRC #3103).

Almost five years ago, the IRRC approved a final regulation proposed by the Parking Authority that more than tripled the number of taxicab medallions reserved for WAVs. At the time, there were approximately 1,800 taxis operating in the city, but just seven medallions were reserved for WAVs. I supported the adoption of that final regulation. But then as now, I believe more must be done to ensure that Philadelphians and visitors who use wheelchairs have equal access to this form of transportation.

Now as before, due to medical and technological advancements, as well as U.S. military combat activities overseas, there are a growing number of disabled persons living and functioning within our communities. They deserve full access to taxicabs. There are now approximately 700 medallion taxicabs operating in Philadelphia, along with hundreds more that are dispatched by six partial-rights carriers. The measures proposed by the Parking Authority would improve standards for the condition of all taxis and make WAV taxis the rule, rather than the exception.

Understandably, operators will be concerned about the costs they may incur under new regulations. However, the Parking Authority has taken care to propose a phased implementation of WAV requirements, which would apply only to vehicles newly placed into service. I am confident this approach will ease the financial burden and result in improved customer service. Providing for the increased accommodation of persons with disabilities is a legally, socially, and morally pressing matter. I respectfully urge you to join me in supporting new regulations that would improve wheelchair accessibility in Philadelphia's taxicab industry. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine M. Tartaglione".

Christine M. Tartaglione
State Senator