



# CITY OF PITTSBURGH

"AMERICA'S MOST LIVABLE CITY"

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Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Robert F. Powelson, Chairman  
Jan H. Freeman, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Powelson and Mr. Freeman:

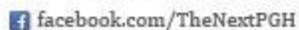
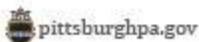
I write to you today to express my sincere disappointment in the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's (PUC) decision to fine, intimidate, and in some cases prosecute individuals who work as drivers related to the Lyft and Uber ride-sharing services. While I understand that the PUC takes its duty to ensure public safety seriously, it is evident that your enforcement activities against these entrepreneurs go above and beyond what is required or prudent.

The role of government is to facilitate innovation and growth, not to stand in its way. This is a sentiment that I have shared with you before and during our conversations I was hopeful that the PUC would lead on this issue by working closely with Uber and Lyft to craft new regulations that would allow them to operate freely. I am still hopeful that this can happen and I trust in your commitment to exploring innovation and encouraging entrepreneurship in the Commonwealth.

These innovative companies have come to Pittsburgh to provide popular transportation options that our citizens have embraced with fervor. In fact, Uber is reporting that ridership in Pittsburgh is growing faster here than in any other city where their service is available. I myself use Lyft and Uber frequently and have been quite pleased with both the level of service that I have received and the comfort and safety I have enjoyed while in the care of their drivers. In reality, these services are not going anywhere anytime soon because the people, through their wallets and smartphones, have demanded it.

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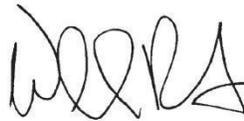


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Other states, recognizing the growing popularity of these programs, have installed new regimes of regulation that allow companies like these to operate legally and safely. California and Colorado are just two examples of governments that have successfully tackled this problem. If they can do it, I know we can too.

It is our obligation as public leaders to respond to these strong signals for change from our constituents. I urge you to cease these overbearing enforcement activities now and commit to the future of public transportation with Uber, Lyft, and what I am sure will be numerous companies just like them in the future.

Sincerely,



William Peduto  
Mayor