

RECEIVED



Greater Pittsburgh
Chamber of Commerce

2016 MAY 12 AM 9:49

An affiliate of the Allegheny Conference

PA P.U.C.
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

11 Stanwix Street, 17th Floor
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222-1312

T: 412.281.4783
F: 412.392.4520

PittsburghChamber.com

May 9, 2016

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
400 North Street
Keystone Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear PUC Commissioners:

The Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce – an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, works to improve the economy and quality of life in the Pittsburgh region. Our organization is heavily committed to ensuring an investment friendly climate for southwestern Pennsylvania and the entire Commonwealth. We write today to express our concerns with regard to the excessive nature of the recent \$11.3 million fine on Uber Technologies Inc. (Uber), the highest fine in PUC's 79 year history. The fine is out of sync with the offense and could potentially negatively impact our ability to attract and retain innovators and the investment they bring to the region.

We encourage the PUC to treat Uber with the fairness that it would apply to any other business. As the Commission has acknowledged, Uber's 21st century innovation via app-based rideshare services has created a category of business that regulators and legislators have not fully processed in rulemaking and legislation. Because of the innovation from Uber, many other states' regulatory and legislative bodies are dealing with similar issues, but it is vital for Pennsylvania's economic future that we recognize the need for social mobility that rideshare services fulfill.

Uber is investing hundreds of millions of dollars in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Additionally, Uber chose Pittsburgh as its international hub for the testing of self-driven vehicles and its worldwide headquarters for advanced technology research. The company has already hired several hundred employees to work in its Advanced Technology Center in Pittsburgh. While investment is not a means to escape regulation, we believe the PUC should apply some context to its ruling. A company that is investing in Pennsylvania jobs should be treated fairly, in line with other similar operators, and we must welcome innovative firms.

Ridesharing services are innovative and may not precisely fit under current regulatory regimes, but they have been beneficial to our economy and transportation systems. Currently, Uber has created more than 20,000 jobs right here in Pennsylvania and is available to more than 77% of Pennsylvanians. Further, 87% of rides arrive within 10 minutes, and more than half arrive in less than four minutes. These are enormous benefits. In recognition of these facts, the PUC granted Uber emergency authority in August 2014 to offer rideshare services throughout Pennsylvania, followed by a two-year operating license, issued in January 2015.

We respectfully request that the PUC reconsider its fine in this matter and look forward to working with the Commission on developing 21st century solutions for our innovation economy.

Sincerely,



Dennis Yablonsky
CEO, Allegheny Conference on Community
Development – and Affiliates



Matt Smith
President, Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of
Commerce – an affiliate of the Allegheny
Conference



**Greater Pittsburgh
Chamber of Commerce**

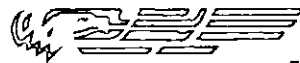
An Affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development

11 Stanwix Street, 17th Floor | Pittsburgh, PA 15222-1312

PITTSBURGH
PA 150
10 MAY '16
PM 5 L



U.S. POSTAGE » PITNEY BOWES



ZIP 15222 \$ 000.46⁵
02 1W
0001391546 MAY 10 2016

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
400 North Street
Keystone Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

pittsburgh.
Imagine what you can do here.®

17120007999

