

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Edwin B. Erickson

DATE: 2/26/09

SUBJECT: Cosponsorship of Legislation

I plan to introduce legislation that will benefit Pennsylvania's limousine service businesses by eliminating the regulatory authority of the Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA) over the industry, which is already regulated by the Public Utility Commission (PUC).

With the passage of Act 94 of 2004, regulatory authority over taxicab service in the City of Philadelphia was transferred from the PUC to the PPA. The PPA was also given the authority to regulate limousine services that operated in the city or transported passengers to or from any airport, train station or hotel located in whole or in part in the city. However, the limousine industry continued to be licensed and regulated by the PUC.

This dual regulation, particularly the regulations of the PPA, has obliged the limousine industry to meet costly and onerous requirements for the privilege of doing business in Philadelphia. This has caused significant financial harm to the limousine industry. The smaller operators have been forced out of the transportation business, losing their livelihoods along with those who they have employed. Nationwide studies have shown that 85% of those in the limousine industry are 2-3 vehicle operators. They provide quality service with a determination to adhere to industry standards for the sake of the consumer.

My legislation will amend Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes in three ways:

1. Adds definitions for "bus" and "limousine";
2. Returns sole regulatory authority over the limousine industry to the PUC. The PPA will retain jurisdiction over limousine companies that offer point to point service exclusively within Philadelphia without PUC authorization;
3. Prohibits the PPA from granting operating rights to "black car" operators, which are a cross between a taxicab and limousine. This is a relatively new industry that has caused some concern since it is not regulated or authorized to operate by the PUC.

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Janet Haines at 7-1350.