

November 29, 2021

Douglas Ito  
California Public Utilities Commission  
Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102-3214

Dear California Public Utilities Commission Commissioners:

My name is Clark Rachfal, and I am the Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs for the American Council of the Blind (ACB). Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of Cruise's Autonomous Vehicle Passenger Service Application.

ACB is a leading national grassroots consumer-based advocacy group for Americans who are blind and visually impaired. Comprised of more than 65 state and special-interest affiliates, the American Council of the Blind strives to increase the independence, security, equality of opportunity, and to improve quality of life for all people who are blind and experiencing vision loss. Key to furthering the ACB mission is enhancing digital and physical access for people with disabilities.

By approving the wide-scale commercial use of Cruise's driverless vehicle services, California could improve the autonomy, community engagement, and opportunities available to people who are blind and low vision through truly independent travel.

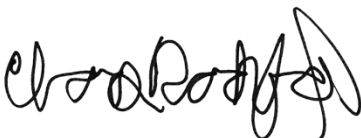
Though California offers several methods of transportation, there are no options which allow blind and low vision individuals to travel long distances without relying on the assistance of a sighted person. With driverless vehicles, passengers do not need to depend on a stranger for their transportation needs, assuring that travelers of all needs and abilities retain their autonomy.

Cruise has been consulting with accessibility stakeholders during the development and testing phase of its vehicles in San Francisco, and we will ensure that it will continue to take our communities' needs into account as its driverless vehicles transition to commercial use.

We hope that Cruise's driverless vehicles can soon be commercially utilized across the state, so transportation can come closer to becoming a service that truly serves all passengers equally.

ACB urges the CPUC to approve Cruise's Autonomous Vehicle Passenger Service Application, so that riders with disabilities can finally benefit from the transportation freedom sighted people have enjoyed for generations. If the Commission has any questions regarding these comments, please feel free to contact Clark Rachfal: [crachfal@acb.org](mailto:crachfal@acb.org), (202) 467-5081.

Sincerely,



Clark Rachfal  
Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs