CalChamber
CALIFORNIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

December 22, 2022

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

RE: Response Letter California Chamber of Commerce to Cruise Advice Letter 002

On behalf of the California Chamber of Commerce, I'm writing to ask that you approve Cruise's application to expand its operational services to San Francisco citywide, 24/7, under the CPUC's Driverless AV Passenger Service Deployment program. As one of the largest advocacy organizations for the business community in the state, we urge the commission to approve the resolution at their earliest opportunity.

Cruise's commercial vehicle service will connect San Francisco businesses to new customers from virtually anywhere in the city by either shuttling customers to storefronts or delivering goods to consumers' doors. Employees can also benefit from Cruise's dependable, safe, and emission-free rides after working hours. A 2019 study from APTA found that among 790,000 late-shift workers in the US, the commute times for those taking public transit were twice as long as those with a personally-owned vehicle.

San Francisco businesses are already benefiting from Cruise's all-electric, self-driving vehicles. Since the onset of the pandemic, Cruise has partnered with the SF-Marin Food Bank and SF New Deal to deliver 2.3M+ meals to those in need. Cruise's meal delivery effort is a core part of Cruise's social impact program Cruise For Good, which dedicates 1% of its fleet to serving local communities.

Many of these deliveries supported local restaurants run by small business owners by distributing meals from these restaurants to families experiencing food insecurity. More than 80% of these meals are distributed to households in San Francisco zip codes below the poverty line.

We are passionate about promoting and facilitating business in California, including the Bay Area. If Cruise is allowed to operate its driverless vehicle services in San Francisco at all times, it would bring lasting benefits for businesses, their workers, and our communities.

For these reasons, we're proud to support Cruise and respectfully ask that you approve its application to expand its services in San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Brady Van Engelen, Policy Advocate
California Chamber of Commerce

cc:
Alice Reynolds, President, CPUC
Cliff Rechtschaffen, Commissioner, CPUC
Genevieve Shiroma, Commissioner, CPUC
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