The Harkin Institute
CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH POLICY

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

RE: THE HARKIN INSTITUTE IN SUPPORT OF CRUISE ADVICE LETTER 002

Dear Director Ito:

I am writing in support of Advice Letter 002 to approve Cruise's application to provide their services for all of San Francisco at any time. Cruise's mission to provide a safe, clean, and accessible transportation option for all aligns with The Harkin Institute's policy priorities and advances Senator Harkin's greatest legislative legacy; providing access to all aspects of our society to people with disabilities. A legacy that was codified in the Americans with Disabilities Act and that we carry forward today through the work of The Harkin Institute.

The Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Citizen Engagement was founded in 2013 at Drake University. We serve as a venue and catalyst for dynamic non-partisan research, learning, and outreach to promote understanding of the policy issues to which Senator Tom Harkin devoted his career; including people with disabilities, wellness and nutrition, labor and employment, and retirement security. Our disability policy arm primarily focuses on advancing opportunities for people with disabilities to access competitive, integrated employment. Access to accessible transportation is vital to positive employment outcomes.

In the United States, 26 percent of adults have some type of disability, and about 14 percent of adults with a mobility disability have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs. Most available transportation services are not designed with disabled people in mind, adding significant barriers to everyday tasks like running errands, exploring the city, going to the doctor, or getting to and from work. Cruise's self-driving fleet will help some of those living with disabilities overcome existing transportation barriers and live fuller lives.

Cruise's commitment to providing an accessible rideshare service can be seen in the design of their vehicles and mobile app. Cruise is developing the first fully-autonomous and wheelchair-accessible vehicle, the Origin Mobility. Additionally, the company is working with organizations and people with disabilities to actively test accessibility features in the Origin Mobility and mobile app, ensuring its services are as inclusive as possible.

For these reasons, I encourage the commission to approve Cruise's request to expand its transportation services to all of San Francisco.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Best,

Daniel Van Sant
Director of Disability Policy
The Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Civic Engagement

cc:
Alice Reynolds, President, CPUC
Cliff Rechtschaffen, Commissioner, CPUC
Genevieve Shiroma, Commissioner, CPUC
Darcie Houck, Commissioner, CPUC
John Reynolds, Commissioner, CPUC
Christine Hironaka, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Governor's Office
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