NorCal Spinal Cord Injury Foundation
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A 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation EIN 82-2423561

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

December 30, 2022

Dear Director Ito:

I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Northern California Spinal Cord Injury Foundation (NorCal SCI) to share our support for Cruise's application to expand its operations to serve the entire city of San Francisco 24/7. Cruise has partnered with us to understand and address our community's transportation challenges, and has become an important partner for us in San Francisco. We support their efforts to provide accessible, clean, and affordable transportation options for people with disabilities.

NorCal SCI's mission is to provide information, resources, and programs that enable people in Northern California who are affected by or living with a spinal cord injury and/or disorder to thrive.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in four American adults live with a disability, and approximately 5.7 million people use wheelchairs. In many areas, employment opportunities and the ability to live independently depend on vehicle ownership and being able to drive, which can result in significant barriers for people with disabilities. Public transportation options are often limited and inconvenient, and most current transportation network companies and their services are not designed with people with disabilities in mind.

Self-driving technology, and Cruise specifically, has the potential to empower people with disabilities to participate more fully in society. By creating new transportation options for Americans with disabilities, vehicle options like the Cruise Origin, will help improve mobility and support the development of a wheelchair-accessible Origin for Mobility. Cruise is helping to provide greater safety and independence to people with disabilities and some seniors by making it easier for them to commute, run errands, go to important events and appointments, and stay further connected.

Our organization urges the commission to approve Cruise's application to provide 24/7 service to the entire city. By doing so, Cruise will increase access to equitable transportation options for people and communities with disabilities, and contribute to a more affordable, accessible, sustainable transportation network for the city as a whole.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

N. Struthers

Nick Struthers, co-founder and President of NorCal SCI

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
Mark Tollefson, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Governor's Office