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

Dear Director Ito:

My name is Mike Williston and I'm writing to you in support of Cruise's application to expand its services in San Francisco under the CPUC's Driverless AV Passenger Service Deployment program.

I believe having access to fully driverless vehicles will offer San Francisco residents, including some with disabilities, a freedom they haven't experienced before. With this proposed expansion, the community will be able to take advantage of these benefits immediately. I am also excited that Cruise is working with General Motors to develop the first fully-autonomous wheelchair-accessible vehicle, the Origin Mobility.

Transportation is very challenging for my family especially when someone has a disability such as being in a wheelchair. It is challenging and takes a lot of time and planning for everyone to figure out ways to do what people take for granted: transportation.

Cruise's self-driving car makes it accessible for people in wheelchairs to get around and takes the pressure off of not only the person in the wheelchair but also their loved ones. It is freedom and what America was built on which is why we really hope to see more self-driving cars to make transportation more accessible.

I urge the commission to vote to approve Cruise's citywide expansion so they can advance their vision for providing a safe, accessible and dignified transportation experience to all.

Thank you,
Mike Williston 11/23/23

cc:
Alice Reynolds, President, CPUC
Karen Douglas, 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

Additional Talking Points:

- *Sixty million Americans have a disability, and nearly 6 million Americans use wheelchairs. Self-driving vehicle technology like Cruise's can play a huge role in empowering people with disabilities to participate fully in society.*

- *Cruise is working with community leaders to ensure that sustainable transportation is available to everyone who needs it and actively testing the Origin Mobility vehicle and its mobile app with community members so they are as inclusive as possible.*
- *Beyond its work to ensure that its service is accessible as possible, Cruise has shown its commitment to bettering the communities it serves by giving back to San Francisco through the Cruise for Good program. Cruise has partnered with San Francisco-Marin Food Bank and SF New Deal to deliver 2.3M+ meals to neighbors in need, including some with mobility concerns, with its fleet of all-electric, self-driving vehicles.*
- *Cruise has driven over 700,000 driverless miles without causing a single injury or accident.*
- *Cruise is the only autonomous vehicle company to build their vehicles in the United States using union labor (United Auto Workers)*
- *Cruise is fully electric and renewable. We are also centrally managed, which will lead to less congestion, miles traveled, and pollution. We will also be significantly cheaper than Uber and Lyft, which will allow low-income individuals to access our service.*
- *Cruise is a part of Pledge 1%, which means they will dedicate 1% of their fleet for the public good.*