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 Phillip Wilcox 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.

In 2012, I suffered an accident which left me with low vision. This means that I am unable to get a driver's license or drive a vehicle. Transportation is incredibly important because it affects where I can live if I need to be near a place with reliable public transit options, my commute to and from work, and educational opportunities. However, transportation options are often expensive with ride-hailing services to get to a public transit station, unreliable with, at times, long wait times for metro or buses, and often do not have adequate accessibility options for people with disabilities. This current situation is very frustrating and is frankly unsustainable for me, and for many other people like me, long-term because there are over six million people in the U.S. who are in wheelchairs and have an even more difficult time finding transportation solutions than me.

I think that an autonomous robotaxi service, and specifically the Cruise Origin Mobility would be incredible for me, and for many other people like me. I wrote a book called *The Future is Autonomous* to raise awareness and advocate for the benefits of autonomous vehicles (AVs) for people with disabilities. AVs have the power to transform people's lives and offer them significantly more opportunities for work, education, and any other event or social gathering that currently has barriers for them to enter in the form of a lack of accessible, reliable, and affordable transportation option.

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 very much,

Phillip Wilcox

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