PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering
School of Industrial Engineering

January 24, 2023

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

Dear Director Ito:

I am Dr. Brad Duerstock and I'm writing 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 those with disabilities, a freedom they have not had before. With this proposed expansion, the community will be able to take advantage of these benefits immediately. As a power wheelchair user, I am particularly excited that Cruise is working with General Motors to develop the first fully-autonomous wheelchair-accessible vehicle, the Origin Mobility.

As one of the co-leaders of the 1st prize winner of the recent 2022 DOT Inclusive Design Challenge, I know firsthand the challenges that people with disabilities have with getting personalized transportation to go to work, run errands, and simply travel when and where they wish. Travelers with disabilities are frustrated with current modes of transportation such as busses and paratransit, which have limited routes and times of service. Uber, Lyft and other rideshare services are inaccessible to many people with disabilities.

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.

Sincerely,

Bradley S. Duerstock, Ph.D.
Professor of Practice
Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering
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Dept. of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine by courtesy
Dept. of Health and Kinesiology, College of Health & Human Sciences by courtesy