

16-122-TR-ORD

From: webmaster@puc.state.oh.us
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 Subject: PUCO CONTACT FORM: 111774
 Received: 3/15/2017 12:32:00 PM
 Message:
 WEB ID: 111774 AT:03-15-2017 at 12:31 PM

Related Case Number: 16-0122

TYPE: Comment

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COMMENT DESCRIPTION:

March 15, 2017 Chairman Asim Z. Haque Ohio Public Utilities Commission 180 East Broadway Street Columbus, OH 43215 RE: Comments to Case No. 16-122-TR-ORD In the Matter of the Adoption of Rules Related to the Regulation of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) Dear Chairman Haque, TechNet (www.technet.org) is the national, bipartisan network of over 70 technology companies that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents more than two

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million employees in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, clean energy, telecommunications, gig economy, sharing economy, venture capital, and finance. TechNet is committed to advancing the public policies and private sector initiatives that make the U.S. the most innovative country in the world. We appreciate the Ohio Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) enlisting TechNet's comments per the official Entry on the proposed rules. TechNet has advocated across the country for statewide TNC regulations that allow for continued innovation in the ride sharing sector that allow the industry to grow, creating new jobs and providing benefits to consumers. TechNet engaged with policy makers during the 131st Ohio General Assembly legislative session in an attempt to pass a law that struck the right balance between oversight, public safety and innovation and believe the end result of this process, House Bill 237, did that. We continue to support the current TNC law and the PUCO staff's proposed rules in Ohio Adm. Code Chapter 4901:2-23, noting that they are overall positive rules meant to encourage innovation in Ohio, provide increased economic opportunities for Ohio residents that allow consumers to take full advantage of the technological advances continuing to be made in the ride sharing industry. The process of considering and adopting new rules for TNCs is now under the purview of the PUCO to consider and adopt new rules for TNCs by establishing a TNC permitting process, examinations of TNCs, and standards and proceedings for the suspension or revocation of a TNC permit. While overall very supportive of the proposed rules submitted by the PUCO staff, TechNet would respectfully offer one minor comment, and potential amendment, in regards to the proposed language in Section 4901:2-23-06 regarding the PUC's ability to examine a TNCs "records, documents, or property" which is to simply add the language "to the extent necessary to resolve a specific complaint" in to the Section to help clarify the ability of the PUCO to examine the relevant information. Thank you again for the opportunity to weigh in on the PUCO's proposed rules and please consider TechNet a resource should the PUCO Commissioners or staff have any questions or concerns. Again, we applaud the PUCO for proposing regulations that will allow TNCs to thrive in Ohio and continue to support commonsense, forward-thinking regulations such as these that allow ride sharing to flourish and help support the innovation ecosystem policy makers in states such as Ohio have worked diligently to create. Respectfully, Matt Mincieli Executive Director, Northeast Region TechNet 617-921-4760 mmincieli@technet.org Cc: Barcy F. McNeal, Secretary of Ohio PUC