

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: James Hallinan

April 29, 2015

(505) 660-2216

AG to PRC on Uber/Lyft: Strengthen Public Safety Standards with Drug Testing Enforcement & Allow More Public Input so Business Regulations are Fair and Reasonable in New Mexico

Santa Fe, NM – This morning, the Office of Attorney General Hector Balderas delivered a letter to the Public Regulation Commission regarding its upcoming action on Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft. Attorney General Balderas wants the PRC to strengthen public safety standards by ensuring TNCs retain proof of compliance with the same drug testing requirements that apply to taxi drivers. Additionally the Attorney General would like the PRC to take more input from the public in order to allow all businesses the chance to operate reasonably in New Mexico.

Attorney General Balderas stated, “I am asking the PRC to address the serious concerns I have about the safety of New Mexicans because while TNCs are subject to the same requirements as other motor carriers for drug and alcohol testing, they are not required to maintain those records. There is no way to monitor whether or not a TNC’s drivers are complying with alcohol and drug testing. I am asking the PRC to address that serious concern and to also take additional public input before it makes modifications necessary to ensure that the regulations both protect New Mexicans and make it possible for companies to reasonably operate in New Mexico.”

Please see attached for a copy of the letter from Attorney General Balderas.

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Attorney General of New Mexico

HECTOR H. BALDERAS
Attorney General

April 28, 2015

ELIZABETH A. GLENN
Chief Deputy Attorney General

HAND-DELIVERED TO:
Commissioner Lynda Lovejoy
NM Public Regulation
Commission
1120 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

HAND-DELIVERED TO:
Commissioner Karen L.
Montoya
NM Public Regulation
Commission
1120 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

HAND-DELIVERED TO:
Commissioner Sandy Jones
NM Public Regulation
Commission
1120 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

HAND-DELIVERED TO:
Commissioner Patrick Lyons
NM Public Regulation
Commission
1120 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

HAND-DELIVERED TO:
Commissioner Valerie
Espinoza
NM Public Regulation
Commission
1120 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

HAND-DELIVERED TO:
Michael C. Smith
NMPRC – General Counsel
1120 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

RE: Transportation Network Companies (“TNCs”)

Dear Commissioners:

I commend the Public Regulation Commission on taking action related to Transportation Network Companies (“TNCs”). I strongly support your efforts to enact regulations aimed at protecting the safety of New Mexicans; both those who use the transportation services provided by TNC’s and those who share the road with TNC vehicles.

While I applaud reasonable oversight generally, I have concerns about two areas that may be problematic. First, although TNCs are subject to the same requirements as other motor carriers for drug and alcohol testing, the new regulations do not require TNCs to maintain records of the tests. As a result, there is not effective way to monitor whether a TNC is complying with the drug and alcohol testing requirements.

Secondly, I urge you to require additional public input in order to make the modifications necessary to ensure that the regulations both protect New Mexico residents and make it possible for companies to reasonably operate in this state.

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If you require any assistance with your important efforts, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'HB', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

HECTOR H. BALDERAS
Attorney General of New Mexico