



MICAH Z. KELLNER
65th Assembly District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Banks
Cities
Consumer Affairs and Protection
Environmental Conservation
Steering

March 23, 2009

Charles R. Fraser
Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs/General Counsel
NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission
40 Rector Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10006

Dear Deputy Commissioner Fraser:

I am writing to voice my concerns in regards to the Taxi and Limousine Commission's proposed amendments to modify the rules governing lease caps for taxis in New York City in order to create incentives for taxi fleet owners to buy environmentally-friendly vehicles and disincentives to keeping Crown Victorias on the road.

Under the proposed rules changes, medallion owners who purchase hybrid vehicles will be able to charge \$15 more per shift than those who purchase non-hybrids and \$3 more than those who choose to purchase accessible vehicles. The goal of this rule's amendment is to encourage taxi fleet owners to purchase TLC approved hybrid models over Crown Victorias and other low gas mileage options—like accessible minivans.

Let me first say that I am pleased that the TLC has taken the proactive position of not placing accessible vehicles in the same category as the Crown Victoria and maintaining their current lease cap standards. However, it is bad public policy for New York City to prioritize the Administration's environmental concerns over the transportation needs of people with disabilities.

The TLC should be promoting the purchase of accessible taxis with the same vigor as they are hybrid vehicles. I urge the TLC to even the financial playing field for both types of vehicles and to implement equal lease cap incentives, so owners can make a real choice based on the merits between whether they want to employ accessible or hybrid vehicles. I believe that the implementation of such a lease cap for accessible vehicles change will encourage fleet owners who do not currently own them to purchase accessible vehicles over the standard Crown Victoria, significantly expanding the number of accessible taxis on the road. Eventually New York City will have a 100%

□ 834 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248 • (518) 455-5676, FAX (518) 455-5282

□ 315 East 65 Street, New York, NY 10065 • (212) 860-4906, FAX (917) 432-2983

E-mail: KellnerM@assembly.state.ny.us

accessible *and* green taxi fleet, but until that time comes let us never place a higher priority on one at the detriment of the other.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on this important issue.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Micah Z. Kellner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Micah Z. Kellner
Assembly Member

cc: Matthew W. Daus, Chair, NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission
Matthew Sapolin, Executive Director, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities