

SAVE THE PEDICABS LETTER WRITING KIT

**Brought to you by
The Board of Directors of
The New York City Pedicab Owners' Association
www.nycpoa.org**

OBJECTIVE: we, the NYCPOA, consisting of its officers, board members and supporters, are trying to reach out to New York City Council Members in advance if Mayor Bloomberg decides to veto Intro 331, the pedicab regulation bill, passed by City Council on February 28, 2007. The bill actually contains punitive measures and language that was inserted after the last meaningful point for public comment. If the Mayor vetoes the bill (recall that he chose not to sign it when presented to study it further), then the bill will return to City Council. There, the Council will vote to override the veto or send the bill back to committee for revision.

One of the functions of our trade association is to lobby. Therefore, we drafted a letter you can send, or please write one of your own, using points we've mentioned and that are in the news (unfair cap on our numbers, expanded NYPD powers to kick us off streets, ban on electric assist, kicking us out of bike lanes and off bridges, and excessive insurance of \$2 million required).

We selected, based upon our research, 24 council members we think are likely to vote in favor of the pedicabs if they are given a second chance. Already, 11 council members have chosen to do so. Please scroll through the list for a council member in your district or one with whom you have an ongoing dialogue. We also include the weblink for each council member on the city site www.nyc.gov. Also, you can email the council member either with the email address we provide or directly from the council member's website form.

Support the pedicabs. Thank you!

[see letter next page]

Your Address
March __, 2007

Dear Council Member _____
[select from list]

I am writing to urge you to oppose Intro 331A, which would limit the number of pedicabs in NYC. This bill will stifle the thriving and entrepreneurial pedicab industry and send the message that New York City doesn't support sustainable transportation.

The proliferation of pedicabs clearly shows that demand is growing for a fast, clean, quiet non-hurried alternative mode of transportation. Pedicabs have become a vital element of our transportation network and iconic of our city's diverse economy and character.

The pedicab industry welcomes regulation in terms of inspection, insurance, driver conduct standards, licensing and other measures that ensure accountability and safety. However, limiting the number of pedicabs will likely put many small companies out of business and will degrade the quality of life in New York.

By placing a cap on the number of pedicabs arbitrarily lower than the number currently operating, the bill virtually guarantees that there will be no expansion of pedicabs into the four outer boroughs. Regulation should encourage the potential for the pedicab industry in districts such as your own.

Future regulation should also recognize that pedicabs contribute not only to clean air, but also to reduced congestion on the streets. For this reason, it is important that regulations don't allow the NYPD to ban pedicabs when it determines there is "unusually heavy pedestrian or vehicular traffic". The Department of Consumer Affairs (not the NYPD) should implement regulations.

The pedicab industry currently includes a great diversity of drivers, reflecting the nature of New York City itself. The bill's ban on electric-assist pedicabs is punitive for older, smaller, or disabled drivers, some of whom have been supporting their families for years using this innovation. Although the electric assist is simply an aide to traveling up hills or with heavy passengers and permits additional safety features to be added to the pedicab, the bill provides no rationale for banning it. A federal law promoting their classification as bicycles should supersede it.

Please encourage Mayor Bloomberg to veto this bill and tell him you will support his veto in City Council.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME

[SEE LIST OF COUNCIL MEMBERS ON NEXT PAGE]

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