December 12, 2013

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
PNC Center
101 West Washington Street
Suite 1500 E
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Commissioners:

I hope this letter finds each of you well; I am writing today to offer the Indy Chamber’s support of the proposed electric car-sharing system announced by the City of Indianapolis in June of this year.

Throughout the administration of Mayor Greg Ballard, our city government has pursued innovative ways for private enterprise to enhance public services. The expansion of Bolloré subsidiary IER’s Autolib car-sharing program into Indianapolis would continue this trend toward saving citizens money and improving the quality of life in our city.

Indianapolis was one of five municipalities considered by IER for initial U.S. investment because of an ongoing commitment to reducing dependence on foreign oil – a commitment highlighted by the mayor’s previous decision to convert the city’s entire fleet of 3100 vehicles to alternative energy sources by 2025. Over several visits, IER was impressed by the shared commitment of city officials, businesses, universities, non-profit leaders and residents to make this program succeed for both the permanent downtown population and an increasing amount of visitors hosted by Indianapolis each year.

In advance of the program’s launch, the city continues to engage IER in selecting sites that will maximize visibility and use of the service. As you know, Indianapolis Power & Light has also been a strong partner in working to install the charging infrastructure and connect the equipment to the existing power grid. The car-sharing program highlights the tremendous capability of different sectors to work together in the name of the public good and economic development.

I am appreciative of the work you have done thus far to implement this ground-breaking initiative. The IURC has a unique opportunity to diversify transportation options available in Indianapolis and place our city on the leading edge of car-sharing technology. The Indy Chamber urges the commission to capitalize on it.

Respectfully,

Michael Huber
President and CEO
Indy Chamber
mhuber@indychamber.com
317.464.2210