MEMO

To: Members of the House Transportation Committee
From: Amy Sturges, Director of Governmental Affairs, PML and PSATC
Re: Senate Bill 1199
Date: September 16, 2020

On behalf of the members of the PA Municipal League and PA State Association of Township Commissioners, I am writing to express our concern with the local preemption in Senate Bill 1199 and the amendment slated for consideration at tomorrow’s meeting. This bill establishes the regulation of personal delivery devices that would travel state and local roads and pedestrian areas by remote operation making deliveries to consumers.

While we can appreciate the benefits of personal delivery devices as the future unfolds, SB 1199 denies local government the authority to make the ultimate decision as to whether these devices should traverse local streets and sidewalks.

This technology is new and will primarily be used on local streets and sidewalks. Therefore, it should be the exclusive decision of each local governing body if a municipality wants and is prepared for these remotely guided devices to be navigating its neighborhoods.

We believe local decision making can easily be achieved by allowing municipalities to opt-out of this law. This will keep continuity in regards to regulation in those communities ready to welcome the new technology, while allowing others to wait until this technology makes sense in their communities.

Ultimately, local municipalities will have to answer to residents and businesses concerning the operation of these devices on streets and sidewalks. Rather than preempting local governments, the Commonwealth should be partnering with them in the roll-out of new technologies.