

LYFT TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE BUSINESS AND LABOR  
COMMITTEE  
APRIL 3, 2017

Good afternoon Chairman Holvey, and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee. My name is Laura Bisesto and I'm the Government Relations Manager for Lyft. I'm here to express Lyft's strong support for House Bill 3246, which creates a statewide regulatory structure for ridesharing that will allow Lyft to expand throughout Oregon. I'd also like to express our opposition to House Bills 3043, 3045, 3093, and 3157, which would provide a patchwork of ridesharing standards that will be detrimental to drivers and passengers alike, and are inconsistent with regulations that are already in place in Portland and throughout the United States.

Lyft is an online ride-sharing application that connects people with efficient, friendly and safe drivers in their community. At a basic level, we make it easier for people to offer their neighbors a ride and help people carpool more efficiently.

This service enhances transportation options for Oregonians and tourists alike while also acting as a complement to existing transportation infrastructure investments. In addition to providing safe rides home for those who want to responsibly enjoy a night on the town, we have partnered with different transportation agencies and municipalities throughout the U.S. to make it easier for people to use public transit by serving as first-mile and last-mile connectors, or by being a guaranteed ride home from work thereby incentivizing carpooling and use of public transit in at least one direction. We also provide thousands of safe rides home for students and workers whose days end at a time when transit is shut down for the day, or for seniors who no longer should be on the road.

More than anything, Lyft is about giving people choices. As of this year, thirty eight states across the country have passed comprehensive legislation, like HB 3246, that regulates Lyft in a safe and comprehensive manner. We hope that Oregon can join that effort and allow consumers to have the ability of choosing Lyft in cities across this great state.

We think it is valuable that students in Corvallis, Eugene, or Salem can get safe rides home, that seniors can continue to have the freedom that they once had when they were able to drive themselves around, with the same

level of service and regulatory requirements from Portland to Ashland, from Bend to Salem, or any of the more than 300 major cities across the nation where they can open the app and request a ride. People like the service because they know what they are going to get. They use it millions of times a day across the nation because it is consistent and it safe.

In fact, at Lyft, safety is our top priority. Our goal is to make every ride safe, comfortable, and reliable. Our riders use Lyft because they feel safe with our drivers, which is a product of this commitment.

Before drivers can accept rides on the Lyft platform they must undergo a mandatory local, state, and national background check conducted by Sterling Talent Solutions, which is the leading provider of background checks for 25% of Fortune 100 companies and numerous municipalities across the country. Sterling is also accredited by the National Association of Professional Background Screeners, which requires a rigorous audit of its procedures and policies by an independent auditor appointed by the Background Screen Credentialing Council (BSCC).

However, what really distinguishes Lyft is how we utilize technology to provide consumers with new transparency and accountability features in addition to our robust background checks.

Every Lyft ride is tracked via GPS, and all rides are cashless. Passengers receive their driver's picture and license plate before they enter the vehicle, and both the driver and passenger rate each other after the ride, allowing for instant removal from the platform if necessary. Riders can also send their real time GPS and ETA to family and friends. In short, no ride is every anonymous. This process has been reviewed and approved by the City of Portland, and in over 40 states. Combining background checks with real time feedback has never been done before and is the reason that people choose to take millions of Lyft rides across the nation.

We are proud that Lyft is more than just a ridesharing application--it is also a unique and flexible economic opportunity that turns anyone with a car into an entrepreneur who can set a schedule according to their terms. The Lyft driver community is made up of retirees, single parents, students, folks trying to get around, and families simply trying to make ends meet. Recently I met a Lyft driver who is a single mother of two and utilizes the Lyft platform to make ends meet without relying on public

assistance. She has a full time job but drives a few hours a week to save money for her children's future. She told me that the ability to earn extra income on the Lyft platform had "saved her life." Onerous regulations, as set forth in House Bills 3043, 3045, 3093, can become a barrier to entry for drivers like her and nearly 80% percent of Lyft drivers who drive less than 15 hours per week.

Along with these community and economic benefits, we believe that Lyft is contributing to a more sustainable Oregon, and we are showing our commitment to this with the proposed first of its kind sustainability fee amendment, where a fee for each ride would go towards sustainable transportation infrastructure. Indeed, over 80% of cars on the road have only one occupant. By getting a Lyft instead of driving their cars, Oregonians are not just saving time, they are reducing congestion, freeing up parking, making more efficient use of existing roads, and with this bill, will support sustainable transportation infrastructure.

Statewide legislation is a path towards providing consumers, drivers and visitors a consistent experience with Lyft. It is imperative to have a statewide regulatory structure so drivers who pick-up at Portland Airport and drop off in Corvallis or Eugene don't return to Portland without a passenger in the car. We urge this committee to support establishing a clear, workable regulatory framework that can be applied to all ridesharing companies regardless of size and cities of operation to ensure that safe, reliable and affordable rides are available for all in Oregon.

Thank you for allowing me to discuss Lyft and I am happy to answer any questions.