

HB 3246 TESTIMONY
RELATING TO STATEWIDE UBER/LYFT LICENSING
House Business and Labor Committee
Public Hearing - April 3, 2017
1:00 pm, State Capitol, Room: HR E
Agenda item: 5

Honorable Chair Holvey, members of the committee, my name is Ken Ross. I live at 3848 Meadowlawn Loop SE #5, Salem, Oregon and I have been a driver for Uber/Lyft for almost a year.

HB 3246 creates a statewide licensing apparatus for transportation network companies like Uber and Lyft but fails to address the needs of the backbone of these companies, drivers like myself.

Under the current business model and proposal, Uber/Lyft will be able to set rates statewide, maintain less liability for Uber/Lyft while foisting more responsibility onto drivers for car insurance purposes, and if a complaint is received, drivers will be deactivated immediately until the TNC concludes investigation, whereas, the most TNC's can get fined for violations is \$100.

This translates to unfair insurance coverage that I'm expected to carry, not being able to receive unemployment, workers comp, or civil rights protections, paying my own taxes while Uber/Lyft don't shoulder any responsibility, and being subjected to rate changes I have no say in.

Drivers in Seattle won rights at their City Council, which gave them hope to collectively raise standards for drivers in the industry. Unfortunately, Uber/Lyft have challenged this progress in court to keep their business model the way it has been. TNC's have introduced a very similar bill as HB 3246 in Olympia that will preempt the Seattle ordinance, progress, and roll back these hard fought protections. How will drivers in Oregon improve their conditions if this bill would deliberately keep them from doing so at the local level?

I urge you to please vote no on this bill as it currently stands. Please go back to the drawing board and ensure that drivers have the protections we so desperately need, allowed to earn a living wage, and not be unfairly saddled with expenses and burdens TNC's roll downhill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Sincerely,

Ken Ross, Uber/Lyft Driver
Phone: (503) 409-4340
Email: tzub@hotmail.com