

Honorable Mayor Ed Murray

Almost exactly a year ago, you wrote a letter to City Council regarding Ordinance Number 118499 in which you urged a cautious approach to regulating Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) to ensure innovation is not the victim of well intentioned but flawed legislation. We are grateful for your leadership on this complex topic.

I am writing today on a related matter. Specifically, the recent December 6 public hearing on the FAS draft rules implementing Ordinance Number 124968. At that hearing, many drivers came to express a need for an equal voice on how and whether to be represented by a union.

The Washington Technology Industry Association would like to express concern regarding some of the proposals by City Council on the implementation of this Ordinance.

First, we believe it is unreasonable to require any citizen to join a union against their will. Next, it is unreasonable to allow one small group of full-time drivers to vote on behalf of a larger group of part-time drivers. As you stated in your letter a year ago, we also support the right of workers to organize to create a fair and just workplace. It may be reasonable and even helpful for TNC drivers to join a union, but we believe it is imperative that all drivers affected should be entitled to a vote.

We respectfully request that you urge City Council to allow sufficient time for the 9,200 Uber and Lyft drivers, as well as all other TNC drivers, to become fully informed of the costs and benefits of joining a union. And we ask that you urge City Council to allow all those affected to have a voice in the process.

With kind regards,

Michael Schutzler  
CEO