

February 7, 2017

The Honorable Curtis King  
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee  
311 J.A. Cherberg Bldg.,  
P.O. Box 40468  
Olympia, WA 98504-0468

Dear Chairman King,

We are writing in support of Senate Bill 5620 (SB 5620), which will bring ridesharing services like Lyft and Uber to everyone in Washington. Ridesharing allows riders to get a ride at the push of a button on their mobile phone, and also allows Washingtonians to earn extra money by giving other people rides using their personal vehicle.

SB 5620 brings Washington up to speed with 38 other states across the nation that have created statewide laws that provide a consistent experience for drivers and passengers. Passage of SB 5620 will establish fair and necessary regulations across the state and greatly expand reliable transportation for all Washington communities at no cost to taxpayers.

- **Safer Streets.** Ridesharing increases road safety by creating safe, and reliable rides home at all hours of the day.
  - 66% of rides are requested at the times of traditionally high alcohol consumption (F-Su 7 pm to 2 am).\*
  - In-app features allow family members to notify and track each other on trips.
  - Riders can get a ride in minutes, even late at night or in an emergency.
  - Recent University of Texas-Austin research found that ridesharing at scale provides significant public safety benefits, reducing fatal alcohol-related auto accidents by 10 percent to 11.4 percent and preventing over 500 fatal accidents since its introduction in 2010. In addition, ridesharing at scale corresponds with a significant reduction in both physical and sexual assaults of 7.9 percent and 9.3 percent respectively.
- **Support local economies.** Ridesharing increases spending in local towns and cities by providing flexible, economic opportunities to drivers and increases spending on the local economy.
  - 70% of riders go out more often and stay out longer, earning local small businesses \$750M in additional revenue.\*
  - 60% of riders now explore hard-to-reach areas of their cities.\*
  - Provides thousands of Washingtonians the opportunity to earn extra money using their own vehicle in their spare time.
  - 90% of Uber drivers say they chose Uber because they want to be their own boss and set their own schedule.\*\*
  - In 2015, Uber driver partners earned over \$3.5 billion in the U.S.

\* Lyft, Inc. 2017 Economic Impact Study <http://take.lyft.com/economic-impact/Lyft-Drives-Economy.pdf>

\*\* Uber 2016 Driver Survey

\*\*\* [https://www.csail.mit.edu/ridesharing\\_reduces\\_traffic\\_300\\_percent](https://www.csail.mit.edu/ridesharing_reduces_traffic_300_percent)

- **Cleaner Air. Less Congestion.** Ridesharing paves the way for modern transportation options throughout the state and gets more people in fewer cars. Fewer cars means lower carbon emissions and cleaner air in our cities:
  - 34% of riders say they would avoid owning a car.\*
  - 56% of riders use their cars less.\*
  - Research shows that rideshare vehicles transport 1.8 people per trip v. 1.1 people for non-rideshare trips.
  - MIT researchers found that services like UberPool and Lyft Line can reduce traffic congestion by up to 75%.\*\*\*
  - UberPOOL has already saved over 500,000 vehicle miles traveled since launch in Seattle last year.
- **Transportation Equity.** Ridesharing provides affordable, reliable rides in minutes for underserved neighborhoods, and offer earning opportunities on demand to help families earn extra income:
  - A 2016 UW study found that wait times in low income areas of Seattle were the same or less than higher income areas.
  - Rideshare drivers earn extra money driving their personal vehicle whenever they want as often as they want.
  - Drivers receive their earnings at the end of each day or week.
  - Ridesharing offers an affordable, reliable ride to and from public transit.

For these reasons, we ask for your support of SB 5620

Respectfully,



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