



February 3, 2022

Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court St, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair McLain, and members of the committee,

The Technology Association of Oregon is the force behind the regional tech industry—supporting entrepreneurs, connecting peers and decision makers, and helping establish the Northwest as a global hub for innovation. We work with over 500 tech and tech-enabled companies throughout Oregon, ranging in size from one-person startups to some of the largest tech companies in the world.

On behalf of its third-party delivery platform members, TAO opposes sections 1-8 of SB 1558 relating to the regulation of transportation network companies, as they contain major policy shifts that were not thoroughly discussed or vetted with impacted and interested stakeholders prior to the bill's introduction.

TAO recognizes the significant role transportation plays in emissions in Oregon and appreciates the efforts included in SB 1558 to increase the number of electric vehicles on our roads. But the proposed regulations have significant flaws that do not consider how third-party food delivery platforms operate. Many drivers for TNCs and DNCs are working to make extra funds, rather than as a full-time job. In the case of third-party food delivery platforms, we know that many drivers are working less than 5 hours a week, driving at times that work for their schedules to make a little extra income. They use their own vehicles to perform this work. SB 1558 as written places an undue burden on individual drivers working for transportation network companies or third-party food delivery platforms to purchase electric vehicles. Although Oregon has an electric vehicle rebate program, electric vehicles can still be cost prohibitive, as they are priced on average about 20% higher than traditional vehicles. This higher cost may eventually prevent those unable to purchase an electric vehicle from being able to drive for TNCs or DNCs, which could lead to a driver shortage—resulting in Oregonians waiting longer and paying higher prices for restaurant delivery.

In light of these concerns, we encourage the committee to engage with TNC and DNC stakeholders to find the best path forward for tackling emissions reductions in ways that make sense for Oregon. TAO appreciates the Co-Chairs quick response to pull sections 1-8 out of the legislation, as proposed in the -2 amendments, and encourages the committee to vote for their adoption.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Skip Newberry".

Skip Newberry

President & CEO, Technology Association of Oregon