

February 26, 2024 House Committee on Business and Labor 900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301

## **RE: Support for HB 4066**

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice Chair Elmer, Vice Chair Sosa, and Members of the Committee, on behalf of Turo, I respectfully submit the following testimony in SUPPORT of HB 4066.

Turo is the world's largest peer-to-peer car sharing marketplace which provides the opportunity for car owners, or hosts, to share their cars and earn extra income to offset the costs of car ownership or lessen the burden of debt. "Guests," who are also often local, enjoy the ability to choose an exact make, model, and price point to suit their specific needs or to take them on their next adventure.

Oregon passed one of the nation's earliest laws for personal vehicle sharing programs in 2011. However, the rapid expansion of the peer-to-peer car sharing industry since then was not anticipated by the original legislation. In recent years, stakeholders have collaborated to establish a national regulatory framework for this growing industry, encompassing platforms like ours that operate nationwide. In 2019, this collaborative effort involving lawmakers, the car-sharing industry, insurance industry, trade associations, and the rental car industry led to the development of a national model for peer-to-peer car sharing. This model has already been enacted in 20 states and was used as the foundation for HB 4066.

HB 4066 will ensure Oregonians can continue to safely enjoy this marketplace by strengthening the existing regulatory framework through the addition of definitional clarity, improved consumer protections, and established platform obligations. HB 4066 clearly defines the obligations and responsibilities of all parties involved in a peer-to-peer transaction. The definitional clarity and insurance requirements ensure that there is coverage during all times of the car sharing period with no opportunity for gaps. These definitions also eliminate ambiguity and help reduce coverage disputes by requiring that platforms keep specific records of the start and termination of the sharing period. Additionally, HB 4066 requires platforms to establish features that create a safe and reliable user experience. Some of these features include maintaining an emergency telephone number for roadside assistance as well as having a protocol for the platform and the vehicle owner to properly disclose and address any issues with automobile safety recalls.

Turo's mission is to put the world's 1.5 billion cars to better use. Through peer-to-peer car sharing, many families are able to optimize one of their most expensive assets - their car - and

turn it into a meaningful source of income. In addition to supporting economic empowerment, car sharing also encourages people to enjoy the benefits of a vehicle without requiring personal car ownership. Researchers from UC Berkeley found that for every car shared, between seven to eleven cars were taken off the road, resulting in a net annual reduction in emissions. Convenient options for car sharing reduces the number of cars on the road which, in-turn, reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

For the reasons outlined above, we would like to reiterate our strong support for HB 4066 and we welcome the opportunity to work with the stakeholders in the interim to ensure that Oregonians are able to reap the benefits of car sharing in a safe and responsible manner.

Best Regards,

Pablo Benavente
Senior Political &
Government Relations Manager
Turo, Inc.
pablo@turo.com