

March 5, 2025

The Honorable Nathan Sosa, Chair House Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection 900 Court St. NE Salem Oregon 97301

RE: HB 3345 The Act says that taxis and rideshare vehicles must have plates that have red letters and numbers.

Dear Chair Sosa and Members of the Committee:

The Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection will be considering HB 3345 and I would like to explain why TechNet opposes this legislation.

I am Rose Feliciano, Executive Director of Washington + Northwest for TechNet. TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.5 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance. TechNet has offices in Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Harrisburg, Olympia, Sacramento, Silicon Valley, Tallahassee, and Washington, D.C.

TechNet Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) place a high priority on safety – for both riders and drivers. We believe HB 3345 is making incorrect assumptions about safety.

First, when a passenger requests a TNC, the app informs the passenger with the name and picture of the driver, as well as the make of the car and the license plate. The driver is provided with the name and picture of the passenger. This practice is the first line of protection for both the passenger and the driver. When picking up the passenger, the driver verifies they are picking up the correct person. Passengers are encouraged to also verify the vehicle and driver are correct.

Requiring a red cherry plate would provide a false sense of security. It detracts from verifying license plates and driver/passengers. Also, these license plates are likely to be easily replicated by fraudulent people. Entering a car because it has a red cherry plate without verifying the Oregon vehicle license plate and a driver's name would open a passenger up for fraud or worse.

If Oregon is interested in increasing safety for TNC passengers and drivers, TechNet welcomes the opportunity to work with you on real solutions. We believe working with our members, drivers, passengers and law enforcement would be the ideal way to approach this issue. We would welcome the opportunity to explore this issue in a collaborative manner.



TechNet believes HB 3345 is not the solution for TNC passenger or driver safety. For these reasons, TechNet requests the committee not move HB 3345 forward. I appreciate your consideration.

Sinceret

Rose Faliciano Executive Director Washington + Northwest