

Submitter: James Bowden
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1166

April 23, 2025

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and members of the committee,

I used to own Eugene Hybrid Taxi until the forced COVID shutdown cost me my business. Now I drive 6 to 7 days a week for Uber and Lyft. Many days I make less than \$7 an hour.

Both companies say they only take 30% of what the customers pay, but I've asked customers what they pay and many times it's closer to 50%. Now I've been told my amazing hybrid Prius V that customers love is no longer allowed on the main Uber Green platform they push. I get close to 50mpg, but since it's not an EV, I have to wait until all the EVs are busy or a person manually selects uberX instead of just tapping the button for a ride. Like many drivers in Eugene, this is costing me about \$200 a week or more when I work 55 hours each week. My only solution is to buy another new car and get rid of the one both I and my customers love. I can't afford a \$35K+ car to make up for the lost wages. And I wouldn't be able to work as long each day because the car would run out of charge before the day is over, requiring me to sit for an hour at a charger just so I can drive another few hours and still make it home.

Every year since COVID, my pay has gone down driving for these companies. I enjoy what I do, I owned the taxi company for over 10 years, had 30 drivers, and drove myself. Now I still get to drive, but make half what I used to, and it gets less each year as Uber and Lyft take more of the fare for themselves. I'm not sure how I can continue.

I ask you to support Senate Bill 1166 and fairness for drivers. Thank you.

Sincerely,

James Bowden
Uber & Lyft driver