

Submitter: Steven Ingham
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1166

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

I am urging you to support Senate Bill 1166, which offers protection and representation to drivers facing unfair deactivations. Here are some things you should know about deactivation:

Uber allows riders to lie and nitpick about their driver's driving, and give bad ratings to good, safe drivers because they don't like the driver's political views, or because they hate EVs. An example would be, telling the rideshare the driver was speeding, when in reality, the driver may have been driving 58 mph on a freeway where the limit is 55, and would be 60 or 65 in most states, and being passed by everyone else on the freeway. Haters are doing this to "own the libs."

I am a retired independent owner-operator long haul with a perfect safety record and have driven a million and a half miles with not one speeding ticket in my lifetime. I've been driving for 55 years. Uber will deactivate a good driver if he gets a few of these haters' lies, and the driver can't even face their accusations to protect themselves.

I stopped driving Uber x, which includes gas-powered cars and EVs, and only drive Uber Green (which is only going to be EVs soon) to avoid EV haters and their bad ratings for this reason. I get perfect ratings and better tips, but it limits my ability to get rides. Uber even told me I had a moment of really fast acceleration picked up by tracking my phone that they thought was too much. I was going up a steep freeway entrance ramp and needed to merge with the speed of traffic. EVs have a lot of torque and can safely do this. No passenger was with me at the time, the road was dry and there was no safety issue whatsoever. Uber has no business tracking and making judgments about one's driving based upon what an iPhone tells them when they are not in the vehicle to see the situation or understand the driver's abilities or reasons for the action.

I graduated from a professional truck driver's training school best in my class and also had a defensive driver course from the Colorado State Patrol offered by the bus company I drove for at the time. The brisk acceleration I made going up a steep entrance ramp on the freeway was a defensive driving technique, but Uber keeps a record of it and could use it to deactivate me on their platform, even though I have an extremely high rating from riders and have been told that I'm the best Uber driver they have ever had.

Rideshares have to be regulated and not allowed to deactivate good, safe drivers based upon the ratings and comments of a few EV haters or politically motivated haters, or riders who will give us bad ratings no matter how much we try to be safe and give them good service.

Sincerely,

Steven Ingham
Uber driver