

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and members of the Committee,

I appreciate the chance to share our very serious concerns about SB 1166 with you.

I want to stress that Uber is committed to working constructively to create a fair, sustainable future for rideshare in Oregon. But to do that together we need more time.

This draft bill is far from complete. It requires deep, structural changes to avoid severely harming Oregonians across the state who depend on ridesharing.

Put simply: this draft would make rideshare dramatically more expensive for Oregon riders, reduce access to affordable transportation options, and lead to fewer flexible earning opportunities for drivers.

The earnings standard in this bill would be among the highest in the country, and would be by far the most expensive standard ever placed on non-urban areas. We have seen what happens under similar policies. In Seattle, after a comparable law was enacted, rider fares jumped by 40%. The number of trips dropped roughly 50% lower than in the rest of the US and drivers' earnings fell behind. If Oregon adopts this current bill, we expect similar, if not more severe, consequences.

This is particularly concerning given that drivers in Oregon are already earning strong, competitive income. Just last month, drivers statewide earned an average of more than \$35 per hour while actively providing trips, including promotions and tips

These are flexible, reliable earnings that drivers use to pay bills, support their families, and supplement other jobs. Adding a one-size-fits-all mandate will drive up prices, reduce demand, and ultimately take away opportunity that attracts drivers to this work in the first place.

These kinds of price increases have real-world consequences:

- Riders, especially in lower-income and underserved communities, will be priced out of the reliable transportation they depend on to get to work, school, the grocery store, or doctor's appointments.
- Drivers will face fewer ride requests and longer wait times between trips, resulting in fewer earning opportunities.
- Local businesses and event organizers that rely on rideshare to move customers, clients, or employees will be impacted too.

Let me be clear: we are not opposed to better pay transparency, stronger support for drivers, or a meaningful conversation about how to modernize policy in this space.

But if SB 1166 moves forward in its current form, we're concerned that we'll have no choice but to scale back—or potentially shut down—our operations in parts of the state. It's not a position we want to be in, but we have to be honest about the operational and financial realities.

Additionally, the bill includes unclear and unreasonable requirements that could undermine safety. We are extremely concerned that they will limit a TNC's ability to remove unsafe actors from the platform. The definition of a "deactivation" is overly broad and captures legitimate temporary restrictions. It is particularly concerning that the bill sets an unreasonable burden of proof for TNCs – and this applies to even the most serious cases, such as sexual assault. This not only undermines reports made by survivors, but has the chilling effect of discouraging future reporting. Additionally, the "just cause" standard, combined with a mandated "progressive discipline system," could significantly delay critical safety actions. Allowing drivers to challenge all deactivation types, including those relating to sexual assault or harassment, through an external third-party process, is unprecedented – both in this state, and compared to states across the US.

What we are asking is simple: give us the space to work toward a balanced solution with drivers – one that actually protects drivers' earnings, maintains riders' access and safety, and avoids unintended consequences for the very communities we all want to support.

On behalf of Uber, I respectfully urge this Committee to reconsider SB 1166 in its current form – and allow space for continued dialogue toward a more workable path forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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