

Submitter: Noah Ernst
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4085

Vote no on HB4085.

First, it takes away all authority from local jurisdictions to regulate autonomous vehicles on their streets. Cities are best positioned to respond to problems, are best positioned to address the impacts on their transportation infrastructure, and are best positioned to enact regulations that address the needs and concerns of the citizens that will be most affected by the introduction of autonomous vehicles.

Second, HB4085 states that an on-demand autonomous vehicle network may not provide "taxicab services". HB4085 does not define what "taxicab services" are. Again, for hundreds of years, "on-demand transportation of people" has literally been the definition of "taxicab services." At the very least HB4085 should define "taxicab services." In reality, the State and local governments should stop pretending that companies providing on-demand rides are doing something other than providing exactly the same service that taxicab companies have been providing forever and regulate them as taxi companies.

Third, it has now become public that autonomous vehicle companies, such as Waymo, have been using human beings in foreign countries, such as the Philippines, to provide backup control of their so called "autonomous" vehicles. If a human being is, at any point, controlling any aspect of an autonomous vehicle, that person should be legal to driver in the state of Oregon, and should meet the requirements for all other private for-hire drivers. Currently every jurisdiction that regulates private-for-hire transportation has required drivers to be legal to drive in the jurisdiction and meet minimum driver safety standards (limited number of traffic violations, no DUIs, etc.), have to renew on an annual basis, and be subject to inspection. There is no justification for allowing vehicles to be operated in any capacity on the streets of Oregon by drivers who are not legal to drive in Oregon and who regulators cannot ensure meet a minimum driver safety standard, regardless of how "limited" that operation may be in scope or duration.

Fourth, autonomous private-for-hire vehicles provide virtually no benefit to the citizens of Oregon and do real harm.

Like the TNCs, there are real racial discrimination problems with on-demand for-hire autonomous vehicles. By requiring passengers to have a credit card and use their app, no one without a credit card can get a ride. It is well known that racial minorities are far less likely to have credit cards, and therefore cannot use TNCs and will not be able to use these autonomous vehicles. Government should not continue to support and encourage tech companies that functionally discriminate at the expense of taxicabs who take everyone. Any payment method accepted. If you continue to do so, you will completely destroy the taxicab industry and create a situation where poor, and disproportionately minorities, will not be able to get necessary on-demand

transportation.

Another real harm is that autonomous private-for-hire vehicles take away the livelihoods of thousands of actual human beings. For what? To make a few large tech companies even richer? The taxicab industry used to provide many thousand real full-time living-wage jobs in Oregon alone. Jobs where the money generated stayed within the local community. Uber and Lyft came along and were allowed to siphon off the most lucrative taxicab jobs by pretending they weren't taxi companies and requiring credit cards. They have been allowed to price gouge their customers and underpay the actual drivers. They have destroyed thousands of living-wage taxicab jobs and replaced them with jobs that pay, studies have shown, less than \$5 per hour when you factor in vehicle depreciation. Now autonomous car companies want to completely destroy the livelihoods of every single private-for-hire driver in order to send 100% of the money generated out of Oregon and to make even fewer people even richer.

Vote against HB4085.