

Chair McLain, Vice-chairs Boshart Davis and Gamba, and Members of the House Committee on Transportation:

I am writing on behalf of AFT-Oregon. We are a labor federation representing workplace unions across the state in early learning, K-12 schools, and across our state's college and university landscape. **AFT-Oregon's leadership opposes HB 4085 for the sake of workers and our connected communities.**

Autonomous vehicles:

- Turn "gig-work" for hard working vulnerable families into "no-work"
- Are not truly autonomous, as a recent U.S. Senate hearing revealed they are frequently assisted in driving by underpaid workers **remotely** in the Philippines. Those drivers are not confirmed to have valid state driver's licenses.
- Funnel money *out* of our communities and *into* the hands of venture capital and big-tech.

We know all too well that tech "disruptions" that undercut the current market long-term lead to reduced standards all around for the same products. Cable TV was replaced by low-cost, flexible streaming services – which now charge the same amount, with the same ads, **but without hard fought labor union protections, wages, and residuals for casts, writers, and crews.** Delivery services on our phones promised flexibility and that restaurants wouldn't need to have their own driver on staff, but **local restaurants are being put out of business by high fees and shadow kitchens.** Taxis were staunchly regulated across the nation but disrupted by rideshare startups, who promised the same services for a lower consumer price. Rideshares now charge just as much as taxi services did and still do – **but without regulation and fair wages for workers.**

AFT-Oregon is in support of organized workers in [Drivers Union](#) who from Seattle to Portland, and across the nation, are demanding fair pay and fair work. Autonomous vehicle companies are trying to pull the rug out from under all of us using the same exact playbook. They will offer this dangerous product at a low cost until gig-workers are replaced with no-workers, and then the price will increase.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) did not drop with app-based ride shares. VMT will not drop with out-of-country assisted remote driven vehicles on our street. These vehicles are less accountable, less safe, and HB 4085 is reckless policy. Let's get public transportation *funded* and *frequent* if we want Oregonians to be able to enjoy seamless transit without needing to drive. Transit is accessible.

In solidarity with Drivers Union workers and for the future of our communities, **please don't schedule this bill for a work session.** We do not need to deregulate our state any further. Prioritize human drivers and human jobs for the sake of our humanity.

Sincerely,



Harper Haverkamp, PhD  
American Federation of Teachers – Oregon (AFT-Oregon)