

March 17th, 2020

Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response,

My name is Darin Campbell, I am the Government Affairs Manager at Radio Cab in Portland Oregon. Radio Cab is a driver owned company consisting of 179 owners and many more drivers and support staff. We have served the Portland Metro area since 1946 becoming a trusted community partner.

COVID-19 has affected everyone statewide in one way or another. Our drivers are no exception. Business has dropped exponentially, and we are faced with drivers not being able to pay their bills. This is a scary time for our fleet. Our drivers continue to work on the front lines with our medical accounts, but the healthcare community is quickly moving to electronic appointments. We are ready and willing to do deliveries of all kinds; in fact, we expect to be transporting COVID-19 tests from patient to lab as soon as testing becomes available on a large scale. The financial health of the Taxi Industry has taken hits over the years, but this is different. We are seeing large scale drops in business across the board. Concerts and sporting events are cancelled. Bars and Restaurants are closed. These are things the nighttime taxi driver depends on. Many of our daytime drivers depend on school district accounts which are gone and medical trips which are significantly reduced.

I am asking for two things. One, that the taxi industry be included in any workplace financial relief that may be presented as an outcome of loss of business that prevents the ability for drivers and support staff to cover their expenses during this uncertain time. Second, That the taxi industry be designated as an essential service to the community. We are often called upon to fill the transportation needs for patients and prescriptions as well as other types of transportation critical to day to day community services.

If this Joint Committee finds any opportunity the taxi industry would be well suited to respond to, we are ready to assist the needs of the communities we serve.

Thankyou for your time and I am always available to answer any and all question.

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