

Chair Holvey, members of the committee, my name is Owen Christofferson, I live at 6114 NE Alameda St in Portland, and I have been a driver for Uber/Lyft for one and a half years. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about my experience as a driver in the TNC industry.

I am a full-time student at Portland State and the ability to have a completely scalable job was invaluable to me as a student. In January 2016, pay was cut 25% per mile and 33% per minute. What had started as a great way of balancing school and work became more driving for less money, and throughout this whole time, me and other drivers work every day with the fear of getting deactivated for a reason we have no control over or having our savings garnished by an accident. Despite our status as independent contractors, we do not have control of the rates we set, and indeed we are not even privy to the news of rate cuts when they happen. Oregon's own BOLI has issued an opinion stating that drivers are employees and therefore deserve the respective benefits and protections.

I urge you to vote no on this bill in its current iteration. HB 3246 leaves drivers across the state vulnerable to low earnings, inadequate insurance protections, and a lack of federal employee labor protections. The bill will also preempt any local regulation any Oregon municipality will try to enact regarding the TNC industry.

There are several other bills that have been introduced that would make the TNC industry fairer for all by recognizing the employee status of drivers and publicizing TNC companies' data to better improve our public planning framework. I urge the committee to vote no on HB 3246, which will not make the TNC industry fair or equitable. It's time the state to stand with drivers like myself and others who have suffered through low wages and inadequate insurance protections.