

Chair Holvey, Members of the Committee,

My name is **Kazzrie Hecahti**.

I live in Northeast Portland. I've been a Lyft and Uber driver, since they began operating legally in Portland, almost 2 years ago. I appreciate being able to share my experience with you.

Initially, the rates and fees set by the TNCs were reasonable. Not great, but I was willing to drive for \$1.55/mile, 30 cents per minute and pay the 20% cut of my fare, as a fee for using their system. At that time, taxis were about 70% more expensive. Lyft and Uber were cheaper options. And riders had NO Complaints about the cost. However, soon after the City of Portland upgraded TNC status from provisional to permanent Uber announced they were cutting rates, "temporarily" by 30%. 30%, is a huge pay cut for drivers, who weren't earning a lot to begin with.

The fee percentage was also increased from 20 to 25%. These "temporary cuts" have never been changed. Drivers make 30% less than they did nearly 2 years ago. I was so outraged by these cuts, I help found The Drivers Collective PDX, a group working to fix the problems in the TNC system in Portland. Work that will not be possible if this bill passes.

Besides the lack of rate regulation, another serious problem is the gaps and conflicts with how auto insurance works for TNC drivers. I am truly BAFFLED that City allows rates to be completely unregulated. Taxi rates were always set by the City, to protect both the drivers from being under-paid, and the riders from being over-charged.

How is it, that when Uber arrived, instead of setting minimum and maximum rates, within which they could operate...Instead, the answer was to DE-Regulate the Taxi Rates??

Why? What do I (as a citizen) not know? Were taxi rates de-regulated just so Uber could be un-regulated? It makes no sense! And it's unfair to drivers and the public.

\Portland Taxi rates have increased (a little), while TNC rates have gone down. The difference between them is now MORE Than Double.

These rate history details are online at:

<https://TheDriversCollectivePDX.com/tnc-rate-info>

I believe that Each Oregon community should set their own rates. I believe that giving Uber this unchecked power, state-wide, is outrageous, and should be illegal. Thank you for your time and attention. Please vote "no" on HB3246.