



April 3, 2017

Honorable Representative Paul Holvey, Chair
House Committee on Business and Labor
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Eugene OPPOSES HB 3157 and HB 3246

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

The City of Eugene is opposed to HB 3157 and HB 3246, unless amended to allow for local government oversight of public passenger vehicles (PPV), including transportation network companies (TNCs), to ensure public safety.

In Eugene, the public has been assured of local regulation of the PPV industry since 1928, including taxis, limousines, and shuttles and most recently TNC's. Eugene City Code ensures that all PPV providers are licensed and registered with the City, providing a level of security for customers that the vehicles they ride in have been inspected, meet the prescribed safety standards, are insured, and the drivers have gone through a background check. While the bills before you today, envision a system that provides similar oversight, experience shows that centralized state oversight will be less than what is provided locally.

In 2015, the Eugene City Council updated City code to allow vehicles for hire in Eugene to use smart phone applications to calculate and charge fares. The Council gave staff direction to update administrative rules to accommodate new transportation models while maintaining community safety standards. Over several months, staff met with a number of key stakeholders including representatives of local taxi companies, TNCs, and other local transportation agencies and jurisdictions. Staff also reviewed rules that have been used in other communities both within Oregon and in other states. The new rules were implemented in 2016, providing a comprehensive path for the TNCs to operate legally in Eugene that is consistent with the safety standards for other PPV companies.

The City of Eugene urges you to vote NO PASS on HB 3157 and requests that HB3246 be amended to allow for a locally adopted statewide 'model code', rather than a preemption of existing regulatory oversight.

Sincerely,

Ethan Nelson, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager