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TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE

HB 3157 and HB 3246

April 3, 2017

Good afternoon. My name is Craig Honeyman and I appear before you today on behalf of the League of Oregon Cities' 241 members in opposition to HB 3157 and HB 3246. As I am sure the committee knows, Oregon is a home rule state. That means any authority not specifically and expressly denied by another government entity, belongs to cities. Both bills infringe upon that home rule authority. The League opposes, as a matter of policy, legislative attempts that deny local control, especially in instances such as this, where regulatory authority has traditionally resided with a local government.

The League is fully aware of the impact that the "sharing economy" is having on local citizens. And we generally support the development of new and innovative ways of providing services to the public – but not at the expense of having a say in matters relating to public safety and health, and yes, in receiving some compensation for the regulatory activity that accompanies this kind of business activity.

HB 3157 goes beyond just denying cities the right to regulate transportation network companies. It puts the Oregon Department of Transportation in the role of regulating all vehicle-for-hire companies, including those providing taxicab and limousine services, an authority traditionally reserved for cities.

To conclude, the League does not oppose the creation of new ridesharing business models such as those used by transportation network companies. But we do strongly oppose the premise that they be excluded from the local regulatory structure that already applies to providers of vehicle-for-hire services (HB 3246), or that all such services be state regulated (HB 3157).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.