

April 5, 2017

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Barreto and Bynum, and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of House Bill 3246.

I am a fifth-generation Oregonian currently living in Salem. My wife works as an attorney in private practice and I am a self-employed small business owner. We both spent time working for state legislators and I worked for a Member of Congress before starting my own company.

We moved to Salem relatively recently and are excited to see the growth in the local economy and the revitalization of the downtown area. Ridesharing services would make the economy more efficient and would provide a boost to local business. Cities the size of Salem and smaller often lack a robust public transit system or taxi service, so we would benefit even more than larger cities already do from having services like Lyft or Uber. I believe strongly that allowing ridesharing services is a necessary component to the continued development of Salem and other mid-sized and smaller cities.

Opponents of this bill might say that the City of Salem can already pass its own regulations to facilitate ridesharing services and that is true. But, approaching transportation policy through a piecemeal approach seems ill-advised as our population and workforce are highly mobile and commuting across city and county lines is commonplace. Continuing with a patchwork of regulatory regimes will hurt our economy and our reputation as an innovative economic engine and tourist destination.

Instead, the state should seize the opportunity to develop a forward-looking policy framework that will guide the continued development of ridesharing and will situate the state in a more advantageous position to adapt to the exponential growth of technologies like driverless cars.

Oregon has always embraced disruptive technologies and is no stranger to leading the way when it comes to adopting the accompanying laws and policies. Here again, we have an opportunity to lead the way.

I urge you to support House Bill 3246. Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,



Ryan Mann  
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