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**March 14, 2019**

**To:** House Committee on Business and Labor, and House Leadership

**From:** The Chamber of Medford/Jackson County

**RE:** Position Statement on HB 3023: Moving Oregon Forward Safely

Chair Jeff Barker and members of the Committee on Business and Labor, Speaker Kotek, and Majority Leader Williamson:

At The Chamber of Medford-Jackson County, our priority is to create a stronger local economy. Over 1,500 small and large businesses collectively work together to achieve this goal by promoting the community, providing networking opportunities and representing business issues through lobbying and political action. The Chamber is the number one business resource citizens look to in the community. The area's economic well-being benefits from the work performed by The Chamber. That is why we seek to have a major impact on business, income and future growth of the Medford-Jackson County area.

The Chamber supports HB 3023 which will create statewide standards for rideshare companies, drivers, and vehicles in Oregon. The bill sets standards for driver background checks, vehicle safety, and insurance.

We support HB 3023 because Oregonians across the state are looking to rideshare as an important, affordable, and safe transportation option. However, the patchwork of regulations increasingly makes it difficult for rideshare companies and drivers to meet growing demand, particularly as Oregon's tourism industry flourishes.

Medford currently has ridesharing--drivers can pick up riders in the city and take them to locations within and outside of the city. However, drivers are not able to pick up riders outside of the city. This situation is frustrating and confusing for both drivers and riders who find themselves unable to return to Medford--drivers miss out on income, riders find themselves stranded in places like Ashland without a convenient way to get back to Medford. This regulatory patchwork needs to change.

The Chamber requests the committee support HB 3023 and commends Chair Barker and the committee for giving this legislation due consideration in service to your constituencies and Oregonians across the state. This bill is critical to creating safety and sustainability for our rideshare community.

Brad S. Hicks, CCE  
President & CEO