

March 20th, 2019

Honorable Chair Barker, Vice-Chairs Barreto and Bynum, and members of the House Business and Labor Committee,

The Portland Business Alliance (PBA) is the Greater Portland Chamber of Commerce and the leading voice for business in the region. The Alliance advocates for business at all levels of government to support commerce, community health and the region's overall prosperity. On behalf of our 1900 members, we are proud to support HB 3023.

On demand, app based ridesharing services have become an important part of the Greater Portland region's and Oregon's transportation mix. Ridesharing has become critical to the economic health and safety of our region, and, as evidenced by the recent launch of TriMet's open trip planner app, is an essential component of the multi-modal urban transportation system of the future.

The tremendous benefits of ridesharing to our region are clear. A 2017 University of Pennsylvania study found that there was a 60% reduction in alcohol involved crashes in Portland after ridesharing services became available. And virtually all large events in Portland, including the Portland Trailblazers and Portland Timbers, partner with Uber and Lyft respectively to provide an on demand transportation alternative to driving and searching for parking. Lastly, even with the current strong economic conditions in Greater Portland - with historically low rates of unemployment - the demand for the flexible work opportunities ridesharing services offer remains very strong.

Despite the popularity and importance of ridesharing, the availability of on demand app based transportation is at continuous risk due to the unsustainable and outdated local regulatory model currently in place in Oregon. Through the adoption of simple and clear statewide regulations, 44 other states have already recognized that ridesharing is not a small local service, but a national, interjurisdictional network that needs regulatory consistency to ensure that rider and drivers continue to have access to these on demand work and transportation options.

Under the current regulatory model tens of thousands of riders and drivers are put at risk every day due to the fact that ridesharing is forced to ride or drive in a regulatory "grey area" outside of the Portland, Salem, Eugene, Bend, Corvallis, or Medford city limits. Further, the availability of these popular services in cities like Beaverton, Hillsboro, Gresham, Happy Valley, Tigard, Keizer, or Albany are subject to the political decisions made by these larger cities.

HB 3023 will end this inequitable patchwork of regulations and put in place one simple set of rules for ridesharing in all Oregon cities. Further, it would provide a boost to drivers who would have the ability to earn money by providing rides in all Oregon cities instead of being forced to choose.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hoan
President and CEO

