

Submitter: Brett Butte  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4085

As a resident of Portland, I am strongly opposed to this bill. I have driven the streets here many times and can tell you that this will only cause problems. Many streets in neighborhoods built before, or early in the 20th century, are quite narrow. This requires one car to pull to the side in a parallel space or a driveway to let the other car past. If the street is full of parked cars (which they very often are) one car needs to reverse or make the judgement to wait at the stop sign for the oncoming car to pass. I have not observed autonomous vehicles capable of this level of judgement, but have seen videos of these self-driving cars getting confused and stuck in a complicated situation which a driver could figure out. Sometimes I'll need to make hand signals to a car through my windshield to communicate my intent when a turn signal isn't good enough. These vehicles are too apprehensive to work efficiently and making them less so poses an increased danger of crashes.

All of this doesn't even get into the jobs this deprives of rideshare drivers, taxi drivers, and public transportation employees who would face competition by artificial drivers both in the job market and on the road. To think that this will have minimal effect on traffic and not hurt the job market is naive.

My last point is that this bill preempts the city of Portland's legislation (or any other Oregon city's) allowing it to regulate or ban the service based on what people who live here actually want.

I strongly oppose this bill and believe you should as well!