



February 15, 2022

Hon. Raymond Hull  
Chair, House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

To Chair Hull and Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Uber Technologies, Inc., we appreciate the opportunity to provide public testimony in opposition of House Bill 6629. Rasier, LLC<sup>1</sup> has been connecting riders and drivers in Rhode Island since September 2013, first launching in Providence and then expanding across the State to Newport, Narragansett, and beyond. In 2016, former Governor Gina Raimondo signed into law statewide TNC regulations establishing a comprehensive framework to regulate the industry.

Over the past several years, thousands of Rhode Islanders have signed up to be drivers, and connected with the app to earn income on their own schedule, with the vast majority driving less than 20 hours per week. The expansion of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) has also enabled riders to have a reliable and affordable transportation option, and has been an economic driver for communities and small businesses across the State.

The passage of HB 5587 would allow the Town of New Shoreham to have the exclusive power to impose rules and regulations for TNCs, separate and apart from the statewide TNC laws that have been in effect for nearly five years. Passage of this legislation would create confusion and could potentially amount to contradictory and unnecessary burdens on TNCs and drivers alike. Additionally, the current TNC statute, which outlines a comprehensive framework governing TNCs statewide, empowered the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers to promulgate rules regulating TNCs operating across the State. Were this legislation to pass, it would unduly complicate the State's effective, longstanding governance of TNCs, creating more questions than answers.

The creation and passage of the statewide TNC statute in 2016 was done through careful consideration and input from all stakeholders, and we believe that effort is evident through the thoughtful and informed regulatory structure that is in place today. Uber is proud to be a part of communities all across Rhode Island. Ridesharing has provided an important earnings opportunity to drivers, expanded transportation options to riders in every corner of the State, and has had a positive economic impact in communities small and large.

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<sup>1</sup> Rasier, LLC is a technology company that licenses a smartphone application, which includes a driver application and a rider application ("Uber App"). Rasier, LLC is a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Uber Technologies, Inc. Rasier, LLC holds a TNC permit in Rhode Island (P-TNC2).



We thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 6629 and look forward to answering any questions.

Thank you,

Hayley Prim  
Public Policy Manager, Uber Technologies, Inc.