



May 15, 2024

Representative Marvin L. Abney
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Memorandum in Opposition: H 7678 - Rideshare Vehicle Surcharge

Dear Chair Abney and distinguished members of the Committee,

Uber Technologies Inc., strongly opposes H 7678 which would add an additional \$0.75 on every Transportation Network Company trip. Uber riders in Rhode Island are already subject to one of the highest state level sales taxes in the country and Rhode Island is one of the only states in the country to charge sales tax on rideshare trips. In 2022, Uber riders paid \$4M in sales tax to the State.

This year Uber riders are contributing more than \$375,000 in sales tax monthly. If H 7678 were to pass, Rhode Island would be the only state in the nation to assess both statewide sales tax and a statewide per trip TNC fee. Additionally, riders ultimately pay all costs of the trip, including taxes, and would see this fee added to the total cost of their trips if the legislature chooses to pass this bill.

While the bill is clear that this new fee would be dedicated to infrastructure improvements and transit, we encourage the legislature to instead divert a portion of the 7 percent sales tax already assessed on ride as a revenue stream to further these goals.

Thank you for your consideration,

Hayley Prim
Senior Policy Manager, Uber Technologies, Inc.