

# **Yellow Cab Company**

## **Testimony of Marco JC Henry**

**President, The Yellow Cab Co**

### **Transportation Committee**

**March 2, 2015**

Good afternoon, Chairpersons Senator Leone and Representative Guerrero and members of the **Transportation Committee**, my name is **Marco Henry** I am the **President of the Yellow Cab Co.**

I am here today to testify in regard to:

*PHB 6349 An Act Concerning Ride-Sharing Companies and Drivers*

The Yellow Cab Company is the oldest Connecticut taxicab company and holds the number “one” certificate dating back to 1898. It was Incorporated in 1921 and has been continually providing public transportation in the Hartford region for many years. I purchased this company over twenty years ago and we have been providing jobs and tax dollars since then. The Yellow Cab Company currently employs more than 40 office workers and 150 part time and full time drivers In the last three years, the Yellow Cab Company has invested more than 5 million dollars into its infrastructure. This includes “state of art” dispatching equipment, vehicle security cameras, rear seat payment devices and being an environmentally sensitive corporation has replaced 95% of its current fleet with clean burning natural gas vehicles thereby reducing pollution in Hartford and at Bradley International airport and other transportation centers. In August of 2014 we launched our mobile application that allows customers to request our taxi service

via smartphone. With more than a 50% wheelchair accessible fleet, we are capable of serving the special needs of any passenger.

The State of Connecticut has put in place a very elaborate set of regulations to **protect the safety** of the public we transport in our taxicabs. Three State agencies oversee our operations (Department of Transportation, Department of Motor Vehicles). This oversight has been designed to assure that Connecticut's consumers are safely transported. Very detailed rules and regulations have been put into place to protect passengers that seek the service that taxi cabs provide. Our vehicles, our drivers and fares are **strictly regulated** for a reason. Vehicle certification and inspection, mandated insurance requirements, driver background criminal and medical, etc. are but a few of the many protections which continue to be enforced to insure the safety and reliability of "for hire" transportation. We are required to provide transportation on a 24hr/365day schedule. **We must accept all requests for transportation.**

In the last year various so-called "ride share" companies have entered the taxicab and livery business and **are functioning as taxicabs** without being subject to any of the regulations, requirements or oversight that is designed to protect the safety or security of the transported public. These companies are nothing more than "gypsy cabs" who are free to skirt all the rules and requirements that are design to assure clean, safe and secure transportation.

The Yellow Cab Company cannot refuse a fare and must comply with all the rules designed to protect the safety of Connecticut's passengers. I have made a significant investment doing the right thing and I must impress up all of you the importance of requiring **everyone to comply with the same rules and regulations if they are providing the same service.**

**CONNECTICUT'S TRANSPORTATION NETWORK SHOULD NOT BE JUST FOR THE WEALTHY CREDIT CARD AND SMARTPHONE CROWD.**

Thank you

