

**ACE TAXI SERVICE INC
EAST HARTFORD CAB CO. INC
ACE TRANSPORTATION LLC**

**40 Tolland Stage Rd
Tolland CT 06074
860-244-9999**

3-2-15

**State of Connecticut
General Assembly
Transportation Committee**

RE: HB 6349- An Act Concerning Ride Share Companies and Drivers

To Members of the Committee

My name is Michael Olschafskie, I own and operate the above named companies. The above named companies operate in Hartford, Tolland and Windham Counties. I have been in the Taxi and Livery business since 1983 as a driver and then in 1985 as an owner/operator. I would like you to take into consideration written testimony that I am offering.

- 1. PUBLIC SAFETY- Presently the law requires that all applicants for a Public Service License go through a FBI and CT State Police Criminal Back Ground check which requires fingerprinting and takes 8 weeks. UBER testified that their Social Security back ground check takes 3 days and is "KNOWN" to be better than the FBI's, that statement in itself is frightening. Additionally the CT DMV requires a doctor certified physical asking specifically about health issues surrounding an individual that the doctor must answer, high blood pressure, diabetes, heart condition, sleep**

apnea ect. Also the DMV runs their own check to see what kind of moving violations the driver has, speeding, DUI, reckless driving ect. New applicants are sometimes denied a PUC License based on their driving records. The DMV subsequently monitors and suspends PUC licenses for motor vehicle and criminal violations. Presently we have drivers who have had their PUC license suspended and are now driving for the various Rideshare Companies, primarily UBER, at the Hartford Train Station. Also there are drivers that we have "let go" because of customer complaints regarding driving habits and rudeness, they are also driving for primarily UBER. My company has a computerized dispatch system with GPS that tracks our vehicles at all times, even telling us the speed the taxi and livery vehicles are travelling. Also my company operates a 4,000 square foot garage with 3 fulltime mechanics and a computerized vehicle maintenance schedule that TELLS us when brakes and oil changes and other vital safety parts are needed or should be checked. We have seen over the years that drivers who are owner operators, skimp on maintenance, presently we own all vehicles in our fleet.

2. WHO WE SERVE- The ACE Companies listed above serve the entire public 24 hours a day 365 days a year, we are literally open all the time, by law we cannot pick and choose who will get picked up and who won't. We are not allowed to rate passengers, this is discriminatory and presently illegal. Our business is primarily the Poor, Working Poor, Elderly, Business and Wealthy. Often the poor and working poor cannot afford a tip, UBER drivers are known to give a "black mark" to these classes of people. The regulated companies are prohibited from denying service to any one regardless of the neighborhood they live in or whether or not they tip ect. This pick and choose is very dangerous It happens consistently in a deregulated atmosphere, there is not any money to be made picking up the poor grandmother who is going to CVS for \$5.00, or the janitor going to

McDonald's at 1100 pm for \$7.00, we do it because we are a common carrier and regulated as such, there isn't a choice. Or in bad weather UBER uses price surging, so the poor and working poor would be abused here also, we have a regulated tariff so there is no price gouging. In a deregulated environment these "forgotten" poor and working poor do not get picked up. We are open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, after 800pm we generally lose money, Friday and Saturday nights are very busy and the streets are loaded with UBER drivers taking the cream of the fares. Remember we are in Hartford CT, not Manhattan, there is only so much to go around. CT is a wealthy state, many households have 2-3 cars. Deregulation hurts the poor, working poor, and elderly.

- 3. INSURANCE-** The rideshare companies are claiming that they have proper insurance and they say trust us. The CT Insurance Department issued a warning against using UBER and LYFT because the insurance was sketchy. We are required to show proof of insurance for every car we put on the road by way of a Insurance filing, they do not. When this \$40 Billion dollar behemoth talks, they say "trust us" because we are UBER, I liken that to Exxon Mobile saying let us drill where we want, trust us wont damage the environment looking for oil. Around 10 days ago a TV Station in Denver did a sting and found UBER drivers giving them rides with out touching the app, effectively that would mean there was no insurance. The spokeswomen for UBER testified that the "Insurance starts when the app is activated". Their drivers were caught on camera not using the app so they would not have to pay UBER the 20%. Please Google UBER Denver Sting Operation.
- 4. TAXES AND FEES and EMPLOYEES-** The companies listed above are paying an expensive yearly registration to the DMV and numerous other fees and property taxes that are higher to businesses than the general public. We are paying Sales taxes on our leased

vehicles to the State of CT, we are paying personal property taxes to the towns for office and garage equipment. This revenue is vital to the towns and the state, UBER pays nothing but the business registration fee to the Secretary of State. My company employs over 100 people locally, including drivers, office staff, dispatchers, billing clerks and mechanics, these jobs would also be in jeopardy.

Please SUPPORT HB 6349 and oppose and deregulation attempt. Thank you for your time and consideration If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me either by email, mjolschafskie@gmail.com or cell phone 860-202-0785..

Best Regards

**Michael J. Olschafskie
President
Ace Taxi Service Inc
East Hartford Cab Company**