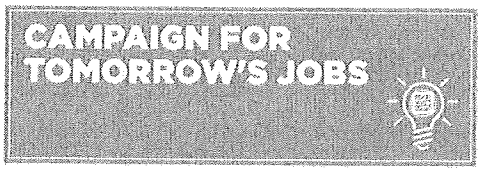
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Public Hearing – March 2, 2017



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 7126
AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES

Dear Co-Chairs, Senators Kelly and Larson, Representative Scanlon, Ranking Member Sampson and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue. My name is Brett Broesder, and I'm a co-founder and Vice President at the Campaign for Tomorrow's Jobs, which is a new non-profit advocacy organization that supports growing Connecticut's economy for present and future generations. We engage policymakers, business leaders, advocates, entrepreneurs, and residents in seeking out ways to ensure Connecticut wins the competition for tomorrow's jobs.

In Connecticut, our economy is improving, but still, lags other New England states in post-recession job growth. As the state looks for ways to ensure that Connecticut's economy grows at a faster pace in the future – better positioning our state to win the competition for tomorrow's jobs.

That's what this legislation aims to do for digital ridesharing platforms, including Uber and Lyft, who are major corporate players in what's often referred to as the "sharing economy." If enacted, this legislation will strengthen our state's economic competitiveness.

The rideshare industry has significant economic benefits for communities across the country. According to a recent study from Lyft, last year alone the company generated $750 million in over 200 cities, and drivers earned more than $1.5 billion. And, researchers at the University of Oxford found that in U.S. cities where the Uber platform was adopted, total employment in point-to-point transportation services has expanded. In fact, the supply of wage employed taxi drivers increased by 10 percent, and self-employment skyrocketed by nearly 50 percent.

There are significant economic benefits, yet Connecticut is falling behind other states in providing a regulatory framework that allows for ridesharing services to grow and thrive in our state. In fact, at least 35 states have already enacted state-level transportation network company regulation. These laws seek to address a variety of regulatory issues – including requirements for public safety, disclosure requirements for regulators and insurers, generation of employment opportunities, and jurisdiction issues between states and municipalities – according to the Council of State Governments.

To ensure Connecticut is poised to continue to benefit from the economic impact of ridesharing companies for decades to come, we support this legislation and encourage members of the Committee to do the same.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brett Broesder
Campaign for Tomorrow's Jobs
Co-Founder and Vice President