



March 11, 2021

The Honorable Robyn Porter  
The Honorable Julie Kushner  
Joint Committee on Labor and Public Employees  
3800 Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

**RE: SB 1000 – An Act Concerning Transportation Network Company Drivers**

Dear Chairpersons:

Internet Association (IA) is the unified voice of the internet economy, representing the interests of leading Internet companies and their global community of users. It is dedicated to advancing public policy solutions that foster innovation, promote economic growth, and empower people through the free and open Internet.

IA respectfully opposes **SB 1000** that would allow for and protect the ability of transportation network company (TNC) and delivery network company (DNC) drivers and transportation and delivery network companies to collectively bargain. This legislation is fraught with anti-trust concerns and includes definitions that would make the bill apply to only a small percentage of platform operators in the state.

It is important to note that TNC and DNC operators are independent contractors which are considered separate businesses and are not allowed to collectively bargain. Federal antitrust law forbids individual businesses from banding together and collectively fixing prices and other conditions. This bill grants independent contractors the right to unionize without appropriate classification.

Further, the definition of “active network worker” in Section 1(13) of **SB 1000** would only apply to small percentage of operators in Connecticut. This would give collective bargaining power to a handful of individuals from specific regions to decide the terms which impact drivers throughout the state and who otherwise have no say in the matter by virtue of time logged into a platform.

The issues surrounding worker classification, unionization, and the increased protection of a growing new workforce are much bigger and more complicated than those addressed within **SB 1000**. IA strongly recommends the Connecticut State Legislature and Governor Lamont convene a state taskforce similar to those proposed or already formed in other states to examine the gig economy, independent contractors, and the concerns from the labor community regarding worker protections.



Proposals involving worker reclassification, collective or sectoral bargaining, portable benefits and other potential safety net systems, and the overall future of the workforce in Connecticut should be given careful consideration together and with stakeholder input at every level.

For these reasons and more, IA is opposed to **SB 1000** and urges the committee not to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JOHN OLSEN'.

John Olsen  
Director, State Government Affairs Northeast Region

Cc: Members of the Joint Committee on Labor and Public Employees