



**TECHNET**  
THE VOICE OF THE  
INNOVATION ECONOMY

TechNet Mid-Atlantic | Telephone 717.585.8622  
www.technet.org | @TechNetMidAtla1

March 7, 2025

The Honorable C.T. Wilson  
Chair  
House Economic Matters Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
230 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

*RE: HB 861 (Stewart) - Transportation Network Companies - Itemized Receipts and Operator Data Reporting - Unfavorable*

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of TechNet, I'm writing to share our concerns on HB 861.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.5 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance. TechNet has offices in Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Harrisburg, Olympia, Sacramento, Silicon Valley, Tallahassee, and Washington, D.C.

The sharing economy is creating income opportunities in every corner of the country, allowing people to work independently and on discretionary schedules, use their personal property and skills to generate income, help them expand their businesses, and provide for themselves and their families. Policymakers should ensure that efforts to regulate the sharing economy protect innovation and individual empowerment, are not overly burdensome, and recognize the unique nature of the sharing economy when compared to traditional providers.

The composition of the U.S. workforce is changing as new technologies have provided low-barrier access to flexible, independent work. This type of work allows individuals and families in need of supplemental income, including during periods of unemployment or underemployment, to access work on demand. Over time, in large part due to the availability of the gig and sharing economies, the independent workforce has grown to serve as an important source of supplemental earnings for

millions of Americans.

Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) are operating under a competitive marketplace, not only competing for riders, but competing for drivers. Therefore, the balance of maintaining high earnings for drivers and low and affordable costs to consumers is essential. Drivers using transportation network companies' platforms are independent contractors and they maintain the right to fulfill or not accept any rides as they please. In most cases, drivers see the earnings for each ride upfront, along with ride details, to help evaluate if they would like to accept it. Additionally, some of our member companies already have established earnings guarantees. For example, one member has a policy that drivers will earn at least 70% or more of rider fares after external fees. Many drivers also partake in application bonuses to help make decisions about when, where, and how much they would like to drive.

The annual data reporting requirements are burdensome and would make Maryland an outlier from other states. Drivers on our members' platforms can already see how each rider's payments are split between drivers, the platform, and external fees. An earnings summary in the companies' apps already shows drivers a breakdown of where every cent of the rider fare goes.

Finally, HB 861 gives wide latitude to the Public Service Commission as they "shall determine the form and content of the demographic data required". To operate successfully and keep consistent rides for customers, businesses need certainty. Without set requirements, businesses could be subject to information requests that they are not prepared for.

TechNet seeks to encourage, enable, and advance American leadership in innovation, and is vigilant against vague, overbroad, unnecessary, harmful, or hostile laws and regulations that slow down innovation. We promote policies that encourage the development of entrepreneurship, mobile commerce, and the next wave of innovation in the new economy. Establishing an innovation-friendly policy framework is the key to the competitiveness of the technology industry. For the above stated reasons, TechNet is opposed to HB 861. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Durkin*

Margaret Durkin  
TechNet Executive Director, Pennsylvania & the Mid-Atlantic