

February 20, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
251 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 480 (Fennell) - Transportation Network Companies - Deactivation of Operators – Unfavorable

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of TechNet, I'm writing to share comments on HB 480.

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 103 dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents five 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.

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.

TechNet has concerns about HB 480 as drafted. Our member companies take safety reports from riders and drivers extremely seriously and review each one to

determine the appropriate course of action. If a driver disagrees with the action taken, they can already ask for the decision to be reviewed. If a driver is found to have been in violation of any company's community guidelines, they are removed from the platform for the safety of the community.

Many of our TNC members already have policies in place to address operator deactivations and appeals processes. HB 480 gives wide latitude to the Public Service Commission to adopt regulations around the form and description of the deactivation policy and manner in which said policy is distributed. Further, leaving the Commission to define the "reasonableness" of a private company's policy is vague, overbroad, and anti-competitive. Businesses require certainty to thrive, and we are concerned that the Commission's ability to adopt regulations will lead to business uncertainty. The provision in the bill related to the Commission seeking out "any other information or record the Commission determines is necessary" could inadvertently lead to companies having to reveal proprietary information.

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 previously stated reasons, TechNet is opposed to HB 480. 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