



SUPPORT AB 828 **FOR AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION ACCESS**

February 18, 2016

California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator,

We write to urge your support of AB 828 (Low/Chang) to continue California's growing adoption of new carpooling models by clarifying that Transportation Network Company (TNC) drivers do not need to obtain commercial license plates. This legislation would do nothing to change current requirements; rather, it simply codifies the existing policies of the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Department of Motor Vehicles on this issue, providing legal clarity for TNC drivers.

For California to achieve our ambitious climate goals and air quality standards, we must harness new mobility technologies to make more efficient use of existing vehicles on the road and reduce the need for car ownership. In just a few years, TNCs have quickly gained adoption among millions of California residents, allowing these platforms to reach the scale needed to achieve dynamic carpool matching (with services like Lyft Line and Uber POOL), offer first-and-last-mile connectivity to public transit lines, and bring mobility access to communities underserved by other transportation options.

To reduce the state's rate of single-occupant vehicle trips, we need to ensure that these new transportation choices remain affordable, reliable, and convenient. In order to deliver this, TNC platforms depend on the participation of a large number of everyday, nonprofessional drivers who are willing to provide rides to others on a part-time basis. For example, Lyft reports that 78% of the drivers on its platform drive fewer than 15 hours per week.

A requirement that TNC drivers visit the Department of Motor Vehicles and obtain commercial license plates in order to participate in ridesharing would create a major barrier for part-time drivers, diminishing the level of service, affordability, and other benefits of these popular mobility options. Moreover, such a requirement would increase the cost of participating as a driver, creating a burden that would fall particularly heavily on those least able to afford it, who are often in the greatest need of the flexible economic opportunities offered by ridesharing.

The Assembly overwhelmingly approved AB 828, to ratify a decision by the Department of Motor Vehicles providing that ridesharing drivers need not obtain commercial plates. This bill also passed the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee and is now before the Senate Energy Committee.

We respectfully request your support for moving AB 828 forward without delay.