

To: Honorable Richard Sears.

Chair: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Vermont State House, 115 State Street, Montpelier Vt. 05653-5501

Re: House Bill 143; (An act on transportation network vehicles)

From: Donald Corbett, Former Owner, New England Taxi (8 years) TNC Driver (2016-2018)

Date: May 3, 2018

Dear Sir,

I am a TNC driver for 2 years. The former owner of New England Taxi.

- 1. Instant photo verification should be required regularly for drivers. Verification mechanisms should be networked with the State so the State can instantly know if there are identity issues. Lyft has never done an Instant verification.**
- 2. Passengers should also have to confirm their identity with a photo loaded on the app so the driver knows who they are going to pick up.**
- 3. TNC Companies should not misrepresent to drivers the distance for the customers pick up. This is deceptive and can severely impair already low driver income. I have noticed this many times.**
- 4. Inspections should be done by TNC employees quarterly or as called for by customer comments. In my time as a TNC driver, I have never met a TNC employee. They do nothing confirming signage on my vehicle or anything else.**
- 5. Insurance requirements should be higher state minimums. The reason for this is they are already the largest transportation company in the state.**
- 6. Out of State and/or Canadian TNC drivers shouldn't be allowed to operate in Vermont. Do we really want to see hundreds of out of state Vehicles for hire operating in Vermont? A Vermont taxi isn't allowed to operate in any other state, BUT, TNC's are doing this same thing, without any legal rights.**
- 7. TNC Companies should be responsible for ensuring of living wages are met.**
- 8. I had to pay unemployment insurance a few years ago to the state of Vermont. I had only 2 drivers. Uber has an excess of 100 drivers and most likely adding more drivers weekly. They are not going to pay any workers compensation or unemployment Insurance to the State of**

Vermont. Do I need to request what I have paid to the state to be reimbursed? How fair is this?

9. Wednesday, May 1, 2018, only 2 days ago. I transported a customer for Uber from Hilton Garden Inn Burlington to Dealer.com in Burlington, distance is 0.95 miles. The customer's total bill was \$21.90. That's a \$22 per mile fee. I don't believe ambulances charge that high of a rate. Are we giving them a license to operate in Vermont so they can STEAL from the residents?

10. If TNC's are allowed surge pricing, then every taxi in the state should be allowed to raise and lower their rates as they choose. There is nothing in this bill that regulates how much these TNC's can charge the customers of Vermont.

11. Any vehicle for hire must have a state inspection done 2 times a year. I personally have been driving for Uber and Lyft for 2 years and nobody has ever even done an inspection on my vehicle other than the required state inspection. New York city TNC's must have their vehicles inspected 4 times a year.

12. Any TNC must provide the customer's pickup and dropoff location to the TNC driver. This way the driver knows where he is going before he begins his trip to pick up this customer. Withholding the customer's destination is a form of employment.

13. Vehicle Identification. Any vehicle for hire in the state of Vermont shall have clear signage displayed on the sides of the vehicle and on the rear of the vehicle. These must have a clear spelling of their business name. Example, Uber is using a sticker that has a large U on it. Many people in the world do not understand what that U sticker stands for.

14. If these TNC's and taxis now have to pay the city or state of Vermont for every pickup or dropoff of a customer anywhere in the state of Vermont, then every business shall also pay for the usage of Vermont roads. It is unfair and unconstitutional that these fees only apply to Vehicles for Hire in the state of Vermont.

15. All driver and passenger information should be accessible to VDOT. Why should this information be kept secretive from the state? I don't approve a random sample of 25 drivers. Of course, this can be misleading information if these TNC's are allowed to choose which drivers get their information submitted to the state.

16. The state should be allowed to do international background checks on the drivers. There are many foreigners in the transportation industry. Has any jurisdiction done any international background checks on them? This should be done through Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization).

17. Fingerprinting should be done on any vehicle for hire in the state of Vermont. This way we are preventing any criminals from being alone with any customers in Vermont.

I personally agree that this bill should represent 100% a level playing field between TNC's and Taxi services in the state of Vermont. There is no way this represents a Level Playing Field.

Everything should be done that's possible before this bill is passed, so there will not be any future problems between TNC's and Taxi companies. These TNC's are Vehicle for Hire Companies.

Whatever can be done to address these concerns in the current bill should be done. Going forward, these significant issues should not be forgotten.

Thank you;

Donald Corbett



May 3, 2018

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