



TECHNET
THE VOICE OF THE
INNOVATION ECONOMY

TechNet Northeast | Telephone 774.230.6685
One Beacon Street, Suite 16300, Boston, MA 021081
www.technet.org | @TechNetNE

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Senator Delores Kelley, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Miller Office Building, 3 East Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: TechNet Opposition to Sb 705 – Rental Vehicles and Peer-to-Peer Car Sharing

Dear Chair Kelley and members of the Committee:

I write to respectfully express TechNet's opposition to SB 705, which seeks to regulate the operation and use of peer-to-peer car sharing platforms at Maryland's airports.

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. Our diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over three and a half million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

Peer-to-peer car sharing platforms allow Maryland residents to offer up the use of their personal vehicles for a fee. They provide an innovative, flexible, and affordable mobility service in addition to opportunities for Marylanders to generate additional income. Car sharing also helps to reduce congestion and emissions, as the availability of on-demand vehicle access can lessen the need for some people to own a personal vehicle.

Unlike rental car companies, these platforms do not own or operate a fleet of vehicles; they simply provide the marketplace in which individuals can loan out their personal vehicle to others. HB 1304 seeks to treat these platforms the same way as companies that own and operate vehicle fleets, rental desks, and offices throughout the state.

Maryland determined that peer-to-peer car sharing is a separate and distinct business model from traditional car rental via Chapter 852 of 2018. That legislation established

a regulatory framework for this nascent industry – including its operations at the state’s airport. SB 705 would result in unnecessary and contradictory regulation.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope that the bill is not advanced by the Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



Christopher Gilrein
Executive Director, Massachusetts and the Northeast
TechNet
cgilrein@technet.org