



March 4, 2021

The Honorable Anne Kaiser
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 1209 - Sales and Use Tax - Peer-to-Peer Car Sharing - Alterations - Unfavorable

Dear Chair Kaiser and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our perspective on HB 1209 and to express our opposition to this legislation as drafted.

Getaround is a connected and contactless car sharing marketplace. We use technology – a device called the Getaround Connect® installed in the car and a smartphone app – to connect safe, convenient, and affordable cars with people who need them to live and work – without ever having to coordinate schedules to meet in person and hand over keys. Though we currently do not operate in Maryland, we certainly would like to in the future.

We oppose HB 1209 because there are critical differences between traditional rental car companies and peer-to-peer car sharing platforms, which were recognized by the peer-to-peer car sharing regulatory framework and tax structure established by Chapter 852 of 2018. Under this structure peer-to-peer car sharing transactions were taxed at a rate of 8% for a period of two years after which the tax rate would revert to the state sales tax rate of 6%. Though the 8% rate was extended by one year in 2020, peer-to-peer car sharing transactions – which on Getaround are almost always transacted by local residents – should be taxed at the 6% rate, consistent with how other marketplace facilitators are treated in Maryland. To be clear, even a 6% sales tax does not create tax parity with the rental car industry because, while each rental car transaction is taxed at 11.5%, rental car companies continue to enjoy a special exemption from paying titling tax upon purchase, which provides a large upfront benefit to rental car companies worth tens of millions of dollars annually that is unavailable to car owners who elect to share their car.

Getaround welcomes the opportunity to work with you and other policymakers and stakeholders to ensure that the tax structure and other regulation of this emerging industry is aligned with the unique value peer-to-peer car sharing brings to Maryland's transportation ecosystem and communities.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gaston Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gaston Kelly
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