



185 Berry Street  
Suite 5000  
San Francisco, CA 94107

May 9, 2023

Senator Latz  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg, Room3105  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Re: Lyft Opposition to SF2319

Dear Chairman Latz and members of the Senate Judiciary & Public Safety Committee:

Lyft is opposed to this bill, because of the grave and detrimental effects it will have on the industry, drivers, riders, and Minnesota communities.

Lyft supports a policy proposal that provides drivers a guaranteed earnings floor and basic protections, but it's important that we do so in an objective, data-based way that doesn't sacrifice rider affordability or jeopardize earning opportunities for drivers. We have worked with drivers and bipartisan legislators to support legislation to this effect around the country. Last year, following many months of collaboration with organized labor in Washington state, Lyft was proud to support HB2076 – landmark legislation ensuring new benefits for drivers including an earnings floor, paid sick time and on-the-job injury insurance, amongst others.

In contrast, this process has not permitted negotiation or conversation amongst stakeholders, and the result is a bill that would make rideshare too expensive for most riders today, a sharp decrease in driver earnings following the decrease in rides, and could potentially result in Lyft being forced out of the market.

Today, 60% of Lyft rides in Minnesota start or end in low-income areas. However, this bill will turn rideshare into a luxury – only available to wealthy Minnesotans. Under this bill, rides in low-income Twin Cities' neighborhoods would be more expensive than a cab in Manhattan. SF 2319 will increase the average trip fare more than 3x, and will result in a fare 3-4x more expensive than taxis. A trip today that will cost \$20, will cost \$60 under this bill.

- A ride from the Cleveland neighborhood to Cub Foods will go from \$11 to \$35
- A ride downtown Minneapolis to downtown St Paul will go from \$17 to \$54

Rideshare also provides tens of thousands of people in Minnesota with important earning opportunities. Drivers in MN in Q3 2022 were earning on average \$35+ per utilized hour including tips and bonuses – reflecting a 6% increase year over year. Unfortunately, this bill will increase ride fares so drastically that it will decrease the overall number of rides a driver can give, thereby undercutting their earnings.

Rather than passing a bill that will hurt drivers and riders, we welcome the opportunity to work together to create smart benefits that protect this important transportation option and earning opportunity, combined with protecting the independence and flexibility that drivers in MN overwhelmingly support. This bill, introduced in the middle of session without stakeholder input, is not the right starting point.

Sincerely,

Brent Kent  
Senior Public Policy Manager  
Lyft