

May 20, 2019

Representative Scott Oelslager
Chairman, House Finance Committee
Ohio State House of Representatives
77 S. High St, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: House Substitute Bill 166; sales tax on transportation network companies

Dear Chairman Oelslager:

On behalf of CompTIA, the Internet Association and the technology companies we represent, we appreciate the opportunity to share our opposition to House Substitute Bill 166 as it relates to a sales tax on transportation network companies.

Our organizations represent the country's leading establishments in the sharing economy high-tech manufacturing, computer networking, information technology, internet media, and ecommerce. Our member companies are committed to advancing public policies that allow the U.S. to be the most innovative country in the world.

As it stands, state lawmakers are considering a bill that will force passengers in Ohio to pay one of the highest sales tax on ridesharing in the nation, almost 8% more per ride. This could undermine our ability to keep rides affordable and equitable at a time when ridesharing has become instrumental in the daily lives of Ohioans.

We feel that both passengers and drivers would be hurt by such a sales tax as consumers would be more conscious of the increased cost creating a direct effect on drivers who work to gain income through rides. When polled by transportation network companies, 30% of consumers indicated that they do not own or lease a vehicle, making ride sharing an everyday component of their lives and commuting costs.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our concerns. It is for these reasons that we oppose House Substitute Bill 166. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at amadon@comptia.org or at colleen@internetassociation.org.

Sincerely,



Alexi Madon
Director, State Government Affairs
CompTIA



Colleen Daley
Director, State Government Affairs, Midwest Region
Internet Association