

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of the State of New York  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. John Flanagan  
Senate President Pro Tem and Majority Leader  
New York State Senate  
NYS Capitol Building, Room 332  
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Carl Heastie  
Speaker of the Assembly  
New York State Assembly, Room 332  
LOB Albany, NY 12247

Dear Honorable State Leaders:

We write to urge you to give consumers the choice of peer-to-peer ridesharing in every community in New York State. The municipalities that we represent differ in many ways, but each of our communities needs more transportation options. Ridesharing will benefit our local economies and provide 21<sup>st</sup> century solutions to many of the transportation-related challenges that we face.

Services such as Lyft and Uber allow people to better utilize our existing transportation infrastructure and provide a convenient and cost-effective way to connect people with jobs, recreational opportunities, and medical appointments. Ridesharing provides 'last-mile' transportation solutions which are critical in connecting our communities and augmenting our existing public and alternative transportation networks.

Transportation is one of the biggest challenges facing older adults and ridesharing is an exciting, and cost-effective part of the solution. Companies like Lyft and Uber develop partnerships with senior living centers, community organizations, and houses of worship, to provide service to people who do not have smartphones or who receive transportation benefits. Ridesharing will also allow for New York's seniors to age in place – greatly improving their quality of life, providing peace of mind to loved ones, and lessening the enormous social and financial burdens that come with prematurely placing a family member in an assisted or skilled living center.

Importantly, ridesharing allows for many individuals with impairments to achieve the highest level of independence and participate more fully in their communities. Ninety-five percent of people who cannot operate a personal vehicle are able to use ridesharing services, and this can transform the way that people with visual, hearing, and other impairments live and work. We support a task force to explore solutions for New York residents who cannot use a personal

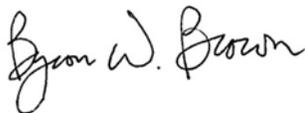
vehicle because we believe that technology and innovation will be transformative for them as well. It is important that we allow people who do not have many transportation options to benefit from these services now while we work towards the most inclusive and best solution for those who require a higher level of care.

As Mayors of Upstate municipalities, we should mention the economic benefits that are passing us by without access to ridesharing services. A recent economic impact report from one ridesharing company shows that in 2016 their passengers spent an additional \$750 million at the local level. From errands to date nights, ridesharing encourages people to explore new areas, spend more at local businesses, and stay out longer because they know they have a safe ride home. Not having ridesharing to support these activities translates into an annual economic loss of \$39.4 million for Buffalo and Rochester *alone*. These two Upstate cities are also losing an estimated \$18.2 million in annual driver earnings.

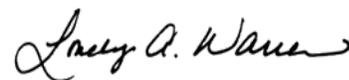
As the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle's Editorial Board outlined on February 26<sup>th</sup>, without ridesharing Upstate New York is developing a reputation as a *Luddite Land* – behind 200 cities nationwide and 81 countries across the globe. Hundreds of people took to Twitter during the 2016 NHL draft to blast Buffalo for not having Uber or Lyft – while 43,000 people unsuccessfully tried to use Uber outside of New York City this past Thanksgiving Eve. Our offices have been inundated with constituent calls demanding access to Lyft and Uber and the latest polling shows that 76% of New Yorkers support ridesharing.

We are working hard to make our communities a great place to live, work, and recreate. We hope that you will give us the tools we need to embrace technology, grow our economies, and serve our residents and visitors. The State is in a position to set reasonable and uniform standards to ensure public safety, protect consumers, reduce barriers to entry for drivers, and allow for easy access within – and throughout – our communities. We urge you to stand with the Upstate community and support sensible language that will bring peer-to-peer ridesharing to Upstate New York.

Sincerely,



Mayor Byron W. Brown, City of Buffalo



Mayor Lovely Warren, City of Rochester



Mayor Stephanie Miner, City of Syracuse



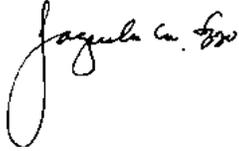
Mayor Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany



Mayor Robert Palmieri, City of Utica



Mayor Richard C. David, City of Binghamton



Mayor Jacqueline Izzo, City of Rome

*Svante Myrick*

Mayor Svante Myrick, City of Ithaca



Mayor Steve Noble, City of Kingston