



December 8, 2021

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NY State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

S. 6715 Promotes Livable Cities and More Efficient Use of Private Cars

Dear Governor Hochul:

As a center-left tech industry coalition, the Chamber of Progress encourages you to **sign into law without amendments, S. 6715**, a bill that will promote responsible peer to peer car sharing in the state of New York.

Our organization works to ensure that all Americans benefit from technological leaps. Our organization's commitment to a progressive society, economy, and workforce sets us apart from other business groups. For example, we strongly support legislation to protect voting rights; supported President Biden's proposed corporate tax increase to fund infrastructure investments; and back a national emissions reduction target of 50% by 2030.

Our organization is a strong proponent of peer to peer car sharing because of **its many environmental and economic benefits**. It encourages more efficient utilization of privately owned vehicles, facilitates more livable cities, makes New York a more equitable place to live, and it allows car owners to earn extra income by renting out their vehicle.

Peer to peer car sharing encourages more efficient use of privately owned vehicles. It's been said that "parking is the single biggest land use in any city."¹ Studies show cars sit idle about 95% of the time nationwide, sitting in one spot, taking up prime real estate.² Peer to peer car sharing services put privately-owned vehicles to more efficient use by repurposing underutilized cars and cutting down on the need for individual car ownership, garages, and storage.³

Peer to peer car sharing can help combat the food desert crisis. Residents in low-income and predominantly minority areas are often forced to travel far away to get to grocery stores only to bring home carryable items that fit in their handheld bags, or rely on corner stores with limited

¹*Saving the world, one parking space at a time*, ITS International, (Dec. 2021) <https://www.itsinternational.com/feature/saving-world-one-parking-space-time#:~:text=Parking%20is%20actually%20the%20single,academics%20had%20taken%20it%20seriously>.

²David Z. Morris, *Today's Cars Are Parked 95% of the Time*, Fortune, (Dec. 2021) <https://fortune.com/2016/03/13/cars-parked-95-percent-of-time/>.

³ Melissa McMahon, Juliellen Sarver, and Sonali Soneji, *Why Should Local Governments Care About Carsharing?*, Mobility Lab, (Dec. 2021) <https://mobilitylab.org/2013/09/06/why-should-local-governments-care-about-carsharing/>.

produce. Providing an option for affordable, convenient transportation would give New York citizens that live outside food-rich areas the same convenient and affordable access to fresh fruits, vegetables, milk, or meat.

Peer to peer car sharing can help close transit gaps seen throughout the state. Tens of thousands of upstate New Yorkers do not own cars and rely heavily on public transportation for day-to-day tasks.⁴ However, many still have to travel far and go to great lengths to access these resources. Peer to peer services will allow residents to get access to personally owned shared vehicles in their local community, including vehicles made available by their neighbors, providing a reliable, easily accessible, and affordable means of transportation to get from one destination to another.

Peer to peer car sharing will allow residents to earn extra income, helping New Yorkers recover from financial hardships caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Many families have been hit hard and suffered from major financial loss during the pandemic. Since several federal assistance programs expired in September 2021, supplemental income is needed now more than ever.⁵ Peer to peer car sharing allows car owners to utilize the tools they have by renting out their vehicles to earn the money they need to survive.

S. 6715 is a carefully crafted bill negotiated between stakeholders, and nearly unanimously supported in the state legislature. Diverging from that consensus outcome would only put the benefits of peer to peer car sharing further out of reach for New Yorkers.

We ask you to sign S. 6715 as approved by the legislature and support the mission of peer to peer car companies in order to protect the environment, close transit gaps, combat food deserts, and offer families the financial stability needed to recover post-pandemic.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Montana Williams
Director of State & Local Public Policy

⁴ Stephen T. Watson, *Officials bristle at new report's claims of 'transit deserts' in upstate N.Y.*, The Buffalo News, (Dec. 2021) <https://buffalonews.com/business/local/officials-bristle-at-new-reports-claims-of-transit-deserts-in-upstate-n-y/article-ee045ae6-d285-5f1b-8569-f6f6451b44bd.html>

⁵ *Expiration of Federal Unemployment and Pandemic Benefits*, Department of Labor, (Dec. 2021) <https://dol.ny.gov/fedexp>