



January 13, 2022

The Honorable Chairman Steve Kirby
House Consumer Protection and Business Committee
Washington State Legislature

H.B. 1389 Makes Smart And Timely Updates to Washington's Peer to Peer Car Sharing Regulations

Dear Chairman Kirby and members of the committee:

As a center-left tech industry coalition, the Chamber of Progress encourages you to **support H.B. 1389**, a bill that makes timely and important updates to Washington's peer to peer car sharing regulations.

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 Washington a more equitable place to live, and 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 puts 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 helps combat the food deserts. 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 produce. Providing an option for affordable, convenient transportation gives Washington citizens that live outside food-rich areas the same convenient and affordable access to fresh fruits, vegetables, milk, or meat.

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/>.

Peer to peer car sharing helps close transit gaps seen throughout the state. Many Washingtonians do not own cars and rely heavily on public transportation for day-to-day tasks. However, many still have to travel far and go to great lengths to access these resources. Peer to peer services allows 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 allows residents to earn extra income, helping Washingtonians 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.⁴ 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.

We recognize Washington was one of the first states to enact laws in favor of peer to peer car sharing programs. We appreciate your hard work to ensure the future of peer to peer car sharing and bringing forth legislation that clearly defines peer to peer car sharing as its own distinct service.

H.B. 1389 makes important updates to Washington's peer to peer car sharing regulations, including:

- Creating fairer insurance qualifications that are consistent with the requirements imposed on other drivers in Washington
- Clarifying obligations of car sharing services and drivers
- Adding protections for Washington consumers, including emergency roadside assistance, clear consumer notifications, and compliance with car safety recalls

We support Washington's mission to ensure the long-term success of peer to peer car sharing within the state. We ask you to give H.B. 1389 a favorable report so that peer to peer car sharing services can continue to protect the environment, close transit gaps, combat food deserts, and offer families the financial stability needed to recover post-pandemic.

Sincerely,



Montana Williams
Director of State & Local Public Policy

⁴ Expiration of Federal Unemployment and Pandemic Benefits, Department of Labor, (Dec. 2021) <https://dol.ny.gov/fedexp>