



Re: Transportation Network Company Regulation (SB 184 & SB 188)

Dear Senators:

The Michigan Environmental Council is a coalition of 70 environmental, conservation and faith-based organizations located across Michigan. These organizations place a high priority on transportation issues as key to Michigan's economic success and environmental prosperity.

We advocate for transportation solutions such as public transportation, pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure, car-sharing, and intelligent transportation systems to increase transportation options and access to opportunity. We support the innovative concepts that transportation network companies (TNC) are implementing through mobile app-powered car-sharing.

TNCs are a response to a market demand for low-cost, convenient and low-commitment transportation options. Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the U.S. have plateaued and Millennials, in particular, are driving and owning vehicles at a lower rate than we've seen in recent history. In many situations, TNCs provide a unique niche in the transportation market to fill a gap that exists in zero or single car households and provides an affordable and flexible option for tourists.

Michigan, the home of transportation innovation, should rise to the opportunity to support ingenuity and technology and send a signal to Millennials, all Michigan residents, and our country's talented workforce that we have a modern, accessible, safe and affordable transportation options.

MEC supports:

- Background check and safety inspection requirements.
- Insurance requirements for TNCs, including ample coverage while a driver is en route to picking up a passenger.
- Regulations that are not used as a barrier to services that safely add innovation, options, and equitable opportunities.

The addition of new transportation options such as Lyft and Uber will make Michigan communities more accessible and economically competitive. Providing a regulatory framework that supports innovation and ensures safety and equity among transportation providers is important for the future of Michigan's transportation system.

Sincerely,

Liz Treutel, Policy Associate
Michigan Environmental Council