

September 6, 2018

Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor of California  
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Sacramento, CA 95814  
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**RE: SB 1376 (HILL) – The TNC Access for All Act - REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of Investing in Place, I am writing in support of SB 1376 the TNC Access for All Act. This bill makes a statewide commitment to move toward full accessibility of TNCs. At Investing in Place, we believe people can't get ahead in life, if they can't get around. Our core mission is to support transportation investments that strengthen communities. With a tenuous history of access to sidewalks, a basic right to the public right-of-way here in the City of Los Angeles, we believe transportation network companies can be a tool for safe, comfortable, and dignified transportation options.

The relatively new industry known as "ride-sharing," regulated in California by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) as transportation network companies (TNC), has provided new freedom of travel for users in California and elsewhere. The use of smartphone technology allows travelers to secure rides more swiftly, reliably and conveniently than was possible under paratransit or taxi service alone. In many ways, technology is the best friend of persons with disabilities. Improving mobility can have life-changing effects for them, improving their ability to work, study, participate in community life, and generally live more independently. That is particularly true with transportation.

Unfortunately, for individuals with disabilities that rely upon non-folding wheelchairs, mobility scooters, or other mobility devices, these life-changing effects are unrealized in the TNC mobility sector. Those who use motorized mobility chairs are almost entirely excluded from the benefits of TNCs because the vehicles used in the TNC model mostly do not accommodate wheelchair users.

SB 1376, the TNC Access for All Act, makes a statewide commitment to move toward full accessibility of TNCs. At its core, this bill creates a time-limited interim model to test and improve TNC accessibility through fostering local models and partnerships that will establish on-demand transportation programs to improve access to transportation options for individuals with disabilities. It funds that program through a five-cent fee, per ride, on those TNCs who are not ensuring accessibility to wheelchair users. Specifically, SB 1376 would require the PUC by January 1, 2020, to develop regulations relating to accessibility for persons with disabilities, including wheelchair users who need a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

This bill will be an important step toward allowing more Californians to improve their mobility and their everyday lives. We are pleased to join other disability rights groups, transportation agencies and providers, and Transportation Network Companies in supporting this bill and request your signature.

Sincerely,



Jessica Meaney

Executive Director

cc: Laura McWilliams, Policy Analyst, Office of Senator Hill  
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