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22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015

To: Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee  
Queensland Parliament

I thank you for the opportunity to make this submission into the Committee's review of the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill.

It seems bizarre to me that there appears to be different laws for different taxi companies operating in Queensland. I use regulated taxis for my safety. I know that if I get into a regulated taxi it complies with regulations such as:

- vehicle safety inspections;
- drivers who have passed a special test to enable them to drive a taxi;
- driver not on P plates and
- insurance that covers me if I'm in a taxi that has an accident.

However I know that new ride share operators do not have to follow any of these regulations which does not sound fair to me. When I use a regulated taxi I know I will have an experienced driver who is licensed to drive a taxi. Therefore I feel safer. I do not feel any level of safety being driven by a young inexperienced driver, who has no identification, in a car that could possibly not be roadworthy.

I also believe there must be a level playing field for all in any entities involved in any industry. This protects small business operators from unfair practices by large predator entities operating in competition.

The presentation of the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015 needs to ensure that all taxis and ride share drivers follow the same laws.

This is an opportunity to ensure a level playing field for all in the same industry. Different laws being allowed to operate for different entities within the same industry would be politically incorrect, result in unsound economic practices and in this case put the safety of Queensland citizens at greater than necessary risk.

Increasing penalties in the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994* to deter illegal taxi operators will only work if these new penalties are policed. It sounds like a good idea to increase penalties by providing for the recording of demerit points against the traffic history of a person who provides a taxi service without a taxi service licence or a peak demand taxi permit, but it needs to be enforced.

Due to the recent violence involving people in the taxi industry and ride share drivers I do not wish my identity nor my address to be published as I fear for my safety.

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