



The Internet Association

June 9, 2014

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe
Governor of Virginia
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

The Honorable Mark R. Herring
Attorney General of Virginia
900 E Main St,
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor McAuliffe and Attorney General Mark Herring,

On behalf of the Internet Association, I would like to express our deep concern with the recent cease-and-desist orders levied against Uber and Lyft by the Commonwealth's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Virginia has rightfully earned a reputation as a home for innovators and job creators, and the Internet Association's members have always viewed the Commonwealth as a state that understands the positive economic impact that new technologies can bring to all of its citizens. Our member companies are creating jobs with innovative technologies all over Virginia and around the world

However, this cease-and-desist order reeks of "old economy" thinking that seeks to force modern job creators into outdated regulatory boxes. To be frank, this kind of anti-competitive action threatens to undo the decades of positive relationships that established Virginia as a center for technology and new ideas.

Internet companies such as Uber and Lyft connect your constituents with their fellow Virginians who are using these new platforms to best meet their transportation needs. The rapid successes of these services all over the world are a stunning example of the American free enterprise system at work – homegrown ideas creating jobs and growing the economy. Such entrepreneurship should be encouraged rather than suffocated with red tape.

The Internet Association urges Virginia leaders to join other state and local jurisdictions throughout the country that have worked directly with companies like Uber and Lyft to establish common-sense regulations that fit the 21st century mobile, on-demand economy.

The Internet Association pledges its resources and technical expertise to facilitate continued conversations between the Commonwealth and Internet companies such as Uber and Lyft. It is our belief that we can reach a swift resolution to this matter and that the DMV's cease-and-desist order should be lifted immediately.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Beckerman
President and CEO, The Internet Association

CC: Richard D. Holcomb, Virginia DMV Commissioner