



May 17, 2019

The Honorable President Tsai Ing-wen
Office of the President Republic of China (Taiwan)
No. 122, Sec. 1, Chongqing S. Rd.,
Zhongzheng District
Taipei City 10048
Taiwan (ROC)

Dear President Tsai:

I am writing to express concerns with the draft amendments to Article 103-1 of the Automobile Transportation Management Regulations. If enacted, these regulatory changes will impose significant market restrictions on app-based transportation providers, lowering the quality of their service and increasing prices for consumers. It is important to delay implementing such competition-harming policies so that a fair and balanced solution can be found that facilitates consumer choice and allows app-based transportation providers to continue to operate in Taiwan.

Internet Association (IA) represents over 40 of the world's leading internet companies¹ and is the only trade association that exclusively represents leading global internet companies on matters of public policy. IA's mission is to foster innovation, promote economic growth, and empower people through the free and open internet.

IA recognizes that the digital economy brings new challenges for policymakers and we strongly believe that new laws and regulations must promote fair and equitable treatment of internet-based platforms around the world. Taiwan's repeated hard line against granting market access for innovative digital services like those in the peer-to-peer sharing economy will have a detrimental long-term impact on your goal of establishing Taiwan as the Silicon Valley of Asia. It also seriously jeopardizes Taiwan's interest in future efforts that could bring our economies closer together.

We respectfully ask that you use your authority to direct the Ministry of Transportation to work with the impacted companies to come to an agreement on a regulatory framework. Such dialogue can both address your government's concerns, while also ensuring that the new policy does not negatively impact consumer choice and raise consumer prices. We believe these steps, taken together, will go a long way in showing that Taiwan is open – in a transparent and fair manner – for business in the digital economy.

¹ <https://internetassociation.org/our-members/>



Thank you for your consideration of these issues and we look forward to working with you on a consumer-oriented solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Beckerman', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Michael Beckerman
President & CEO
Internet Association

CC:

Hon. Eliot Engel, Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee
Hon. Michael McCaul, Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee
Hon. James E. Risch, Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Hon. Bob Menendez, Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Hon. Manisha Singh, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, & the Environment (Acting), U.S. Department of State