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Testimony of TechNet in OPPOSITION to LD 540
Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services
April 20, 2021
Christopher Gilrein, Executive Director Northeast
TechNet

Dear Chair Sanborn, Chair Tepler, and honorable members of the Committee:

On behalf of TechNet, I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to LD 540, which would remove critical protections for Mainers who share their personal vehicles through peer-to-peer car sharing platforms.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. Our diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over three and a half million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

Peer-to-peer car sharing platforms allow individuals to offer up the use of their personal vehicles for a fee. They provide an innovative, flexible, and affordable mobility service in addition to opportunities for Maine residents to generate additional income.

LD 540 would repeal the state's existing exemption from vicarious liability for both the platform and the owner of the vehicle being shared. This exemption is included in the national model legislation for regulating the peer-to-peer car sharing industry supported by the National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL). The model bill - which would be implemented under LD 1420, also before this committee - is supported by peer-to-peer car sharing platforms, the insurance industry, policymakers, and trade associations including TechNet, as a sensible way to safely and fairly regulate this nascent industry.

Thank you for your consideration. We ask that the Committee not advance LD 540. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Christopher Gilrein
Executive Director, Massachusetts and the Northeast
TechNet
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