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David Eby, MLA
(Vancouver-Point Grey)

March 8, 2017

Dear Neighbours,

Thank you for writing to me about ride sharing.

The BC government recently held a press conference to announce their support for ride sharing in BC. An online story in the Vancouver Sun (March 7) summarized what was announced:

"The Liberal government's plan does not appear final. [BC Liberal Minister Peter] Fassbender said he's open to changes based on feedback from the taxi industry and others. 'If there are valid concerns ... we want to hear that. That's why we are taking the nine months.'"

The timing of this announcement with limited details on a headline grabbing issue is not a coincidence. The government has been facing a series of negative stories in the Globe and Mail about their fundraising practices and an investigation by Elections BC into donations made to their political party. They'd like to change the channel.

During the two February of 2016 by-elections, the BC Liberals campaigned aggressively in favour of ride sharing. More than a year has passed and, despite their election-time enthusiasm for ride sharing, they have not introduced a single bill or held any committee hearings on this issue. Now, nine weeks before another election, they're holding press conferences to say they're in favour of ride sharing.

Regardless of the political motivations for holding repeated pre-election press conferences on ride sharing without any accompanying bill or draft legislation, the issue of ride sharing is an important one in our community that many people care about, so I would like to address my position in some detail.

I have spoken with people who have used services like Uber or Lyft while travelling and enjoy the convenience. I have also spoken with neighbours who are reasonably concerned for the futures of families who have purchased taxi licenses using a second mortgage on a home, for example. I have spoken with people who have had concerns about the conduct of some ride sharing companies as corporate citizens, and who have questions about safety and working conditions for drivers. I have spoken with people who share some or all of the above concerns and opinions.

Based on your feedback to me, I support ride sharing where there is a fair wage for drivers, where companies play by the rules, where adequate insurance is in place to protect drivers and passengers, where background checks on drivers ensure passenger safety, and where people with disabilities have

access. I believe it is critically important to address ride sharing in a way that improves lives for families, and respects our community.

Unfortunately, it's not clear to me where the government stands on these important questions, because they have not introduced any bills for us to consider and their public statements indicate that they're not certain how their plan will deal with any of these points. When they present a formal bill or plan, which is unlikely to happen before the writ period of the election, I will be sure to provide you with an update.

Thank you, again, for writing.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DE' followed by a stylized flourish.

David Eby
MLA, Vancouver Point Grey