



September 29, 2021

Mr. Logan Green
Chief Executive Office
Lyft
185 Berry St #5000
San Francisco, CA 94107

Ms. Fidji Simo
Chief Executive Office
Instacart
50 Beale Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94107

Mr. Dara Khosrowshahi
Chief Executive Office
Uber
1455 Market St #400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Mr. Tony Xu
Chief Executive Office
DoorDash
901 Market Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Green, Mr. Khosrowshahi, Ms. Simo, and Mr. Xu,

In Massachusetts, we believe that when powerful companies seek to change our laws, they should present themselves before the legislature to explain why. For this reason, we ask that you testify at the upcoming hearing of the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Financial Services on Wednesday, October 6, at 11:00am Eastern, on [HB 1234](#), a bill that grants “gig economy” companies special exemptions from paying taxes and from following our state labor, insurance, consumer protection, and civil rights laws.

Notwithstanding your significant lobbying and campaign spending to change Massachusetts law, you and other top executives have been virtually invisible. Last month, when you filed to put the Uber/Big Tech special exemption language on the ballot, no executive from your companies spoke on behalf of the campaign. This was particularly surprising given that you collectively spent more than \$200 million on an identical campaign in California last year, known as Proposition 22.

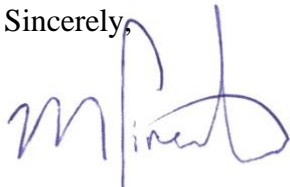
On a recent earnings call with investors, Mr. Khosrowshahi [stated](#), “We [Uber/Big Tech] absolutely prefer a legislative outcome in Massachusetts, but if we can’t get there we’ll take it to the vote and based on what happened in California, we’re quite confident.” Your in-state lobbyists have been less threatening (and perhaps less candid), [saying](#) only that the companies are “[very focused on the legislation \[HB 1234\]](#).” If so, we ask that you show up, testify, and answer questions, so you can be clear with the state and our residents about your intentions. It’s a matter of respect.

We ask that as you prepare to testify, you consider a few questions:

1. Your failure to contribute to Social Security on behalf of approximately 300,000 workers in Massachusetts is estimated to have saved your companies hundreds of millions of dollars. Do you have estimates on exactly how much you have saved? Do you worry about the long-term threat to the system if large technology companies do not pay into Social Security?
2. Over the last two years, during the pandemic, your companies forced taxpayers to cover unemployment insurance for your workforce. How much did you save by refusing to pay into the unemployment system like every other employer? Is it your belief that small businesses and taxpayers in Massachusetts should have to pay your share? If so, why?
3. Why is it necessary to exempt your workers, mostly Black, Brown, and immigrant workers, from robust state protections against injury, sexual harassment, and racial discrimination? Do you believe that all workers should have equal protections against discrimination at work? If so, why do you support a carve out for your companies from these laws?
4. If the Legislature is hesitant to grant your companies these special exemptions, are you committed to again spending \$200 million on a ballot question? If not, how much are you planning to spend?

We believe that the remote hearing will make it possible for some or all of you to participate. You can sign-up [here](#) or contact the Committee staff at mary.roy@mahouse.gov.

Sincerely,



Mike Firestone
Director
Coalition to Protect Workers' Rights

On behalf of the Coalition's Board of Directors