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**Testimony to the NYS Legislature on Extending Ride-Sharing Services to All of New York
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the Environment (CCE)**

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CCE is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that empowers communities and advocates solutions to protect public health and the environment on behalf of our 80,000 members in New York State. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

Ride-sharing services provide benefits to society and the environment by reducing the amount of cars on the road, thus helping to reduce traffic congestion and curbing harmful air emissions. Improving air quality protects public health, reduces respiratory-related disease, and will also help reduce greenhouse gases and fight climate change. We applaud efforts to expand ride-sharing across New York State, and urge the legislature to move forward with state-wide ride-sharing as soon as possible.

Vehicles are the single largest contributor to ground level air pollution and cause a number of public health problems such as coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, and permanent lung damage. New York is well aware of this adverse impacts vehicles have on public health, and in an effort to reduce this pollution we have promoted the sale of fuels that burn cleaner, use special nozzles at the pumps that recover vapors, and have a statewide enhanced inspection and maintenance program. Additionally, the State is aware that these programs alone are not enough, and encourage the public to reduce the number of miles driven by combining trips and carpooling. Encouraging the public to reduce miles driven while simultaneously denying the public access to ride-sharing services is counterproductive and illogical. Expanding ride-sharing to all of New York will achieve a reduction in driving and will promote improved public health.

Ride-sharing distributes the environmental costs of automobile usage across multiple users. By decreasing the number of cars on the road, it helps improve air quality. The transportation sector is one of the largest contributors to U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and contributes more to air quality problems than any other source. According to the *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, transportation represents over 26% of the total U.S. GHG emissions. Within the transportation sector, passenger vehicles account for over 70% of New York State's total transportation GHG emissions. In the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV), Governor Cuomo and the Public Service Commission laid out a clear goal to reduce GHG emissions 80% by 2050; expanding access to ride-sharing will help play a role in achieving this long-term goal.

A combination of approaches is required in order to reduce GHG emissions. NYS has begun to do so by promoting renewable energy and participating in the successful Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, yet not enough has been done to limit emissions from the transportation sector. A holistic approach is required when combating climate change, and policies that foster services that provide a viable alternative to driving should be part of this holistic approach. Ride-sharing directly lessens the quantity of harmful gasses emitted into the atmosphere, thus providing considerable environmental and social benefits that have been seen nationally and globally. Now it is time for *all* of New York to experience those benefits.

Increased access to ridesharing is a celebration for all New Yorkers. It is part of the solution to solving the traffic crisis in cities, helps fight climate change by curbing GHG emissions, and reduces harmful air pollution that impacts public health. Cleaner air can start right here with this simple change. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.