September 29, 2026
The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto ON
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

On behalf of business, tourism, educational, and community organizations across Ontario, thank you for the important progress your government has made in expanding rideshare access in communities across the province. We encourage your government to build on this progress by moving quickly to establish a consistent, province-wide rideshare framework.

The commitment in the 2025 Fall Economic Statement to explore a provincial rideshare framework, followed by the creation of the Northeastern Ontario rideshare pilot in the 2026 Budget, was a welcome and necessary step. With the framework now in place and rideshare service operating across the region, early results from the Northeastern Ontario pilot demonstrate what consistent, province-wide regulations can achieve: safe, reliable, and affordable transportation to communities that have long asked for more options, under one clear, strong set of rules.

Transportation is increasingly regional and does not stop at municipal boundaries. Ontarians who want access to rideshare should not have to wait years for their municipality to act or navigate a patchwork of local rules to get it. A province-wide framework would reduce unnecessary red tape, create greater consistency for riders and operators, and make it easier to extend service to communities that have been left behind.

The economic case for moving quickly is also significant. Economic research estimates that expanding rideshare into underserved Ontario communities could contribute $580 million annually, with benefits extending well beyond the pilot region to Northern and rural Ontario and smaller urban communities still waiting for reliable service. Our members see these benefits directly in their communities:

Visitor mobility: Travellers arriving from elsewhere in Ontario, other provinces and countries expect the same transportation options they rely on at home. When access is inconsistent, Ontario's smaller communities can be at a competitive disadvantage in attracting visitor spending.

Workforce and senior mobility: Consistent rideshare access helps connect workers, particularly in the hospitality and service sectors, to jobs in communities with limited public transit while giving seniors another way to reach medical appointments, essential services, and their communities.

Medical and health-care access: Rideshare can be critical to accessing health care, especially when patients need to travel longer distances or attend appointments outside regular transportation schedules.

Student mobility: For students in smaller, rural and Northern communities, reliable transportation is essential to fully participating in student life. Safe, dependable rideshare options can help students get to campus, attend classes and placements, access appointments, work part-time jobs, and take part in extracurricular and community activities, particularly where distance, weather, and irregular schedules create additional barriers.

Local business growth: Better transportation connects local businesses with more customers and workers, particularly in smaller and rural communities. A modern, consistent transportation option supports the broader visitor and small-business economy that our members represent.

Tourism and hospitality: When visitors can count on getting a ride, they stay out later at restaurants, attractions, events and communities, with a reliable option to get where they need to go safely at the end of the night.

That last point is also an important matter of public safety. In communities without reliable rideshare access, residents and visitors can have fewer options for getting home safely when they should not be behind the wheel. A consistent provincial framework brings another safe and reliable transportation option to more communities, helping more people get home safely after an evening out.

We view the Northeastern Ontario framework as a first step, not an endpoint. Transportation options, and the economic and community activity they support, should not depend on where someone lives in the province. We urge your government to build on the pilot's momentum and move swiftly toward a province-wide framework, so unnecessary red tape does not delay communities that want greater transportation choice.

Sincerely,

Steve Sullivan
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Daniel Tisch
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Ontario Chamber of Commerce

Kelly Higginson
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cc:
The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation
The Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Red Tape Reduction
The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs
The Honourable Zee Hamid, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming
The Honourable Matthew Rae, Associate Minister of Energy-Intensive Industries