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From: David Payton [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 June 2019 4:11 PM
To: taxiinquiry
Cc: Rod Barton
Subject: Parliamentary Inquiry into the Commercial Passenger Vehicle Industry Act 2017 Reforms

Economy and Infrastructure Committee

At the invitation of Rod Barton, I am writing to you , to express my concerns about these reforms which were passed by the Victorian State Government in 2017

My family has been involved in the taxi industry for over 60 years, my father having been a past Chairman of Silver Top Taxi Service for many years

My father would turn in his grave with the action that the Government took in acquiring taxi licences (without adequate compensation) , and allowing Uber to illegally operate

I believe that the Victorian Government was too tough with these reforms

They unfairly penalised hardworking , tax paying taxi owners who bought their licences in good faith and as part of their retirement planning

The Industry recognised that some reform was necessary and supported many of the measures recommended by professor Allan Fels , but the reform did not recognise the interests of all stakeholders, and we weren't allowed to compete on a equal playing field (Uber were allowed to illegally operate)

Operators in the Industry struggled to "make ends meet " , a number left the Industry, and more faced financial ruin

My family has been robbed by thousands of dollars in income and much more in the loss of value of our taxi licences

My family is no longer involved in the Industry and that is a shame

Victoria needs a viable and successful Taxi Industry . Traditional taxi drivers, not Uber, are the lifeblood of our city

The Governments should have be assisting the Taxi Industry compete , particularly against a competitor (Uber) that pays no GST , sends its profits off- shore , does not want to help the disabled and has no complaint handling process . The reverse happened

The Taxi Industry has paid its fair share of taxes and has always done so. It has always done the right thing . The Government did not do the right thing by the Industry

Please urge the Parliament to review these Reforms, admit that they were too harse, and provide adequate compensation to taxi owners

Thank you

Cheers

David Payton