



Maplebear Inc. d/b/a Instacart
50 Beale Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105

January 31, 2025

Senator Jesse Bjorkman
Alaska State Senate
Alaska State Capitol, Rm 427
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Senate Bill 35: An Act relating to transportation network and delivery network companies

Dear Senator Bjorkman:

On behalf of Instacart, I am writing to thank you for introducing SB 35 and express our support for the legislation, which would preserve access to the independence and flexibility that shoppers on the Instacart platform and other app-based delivery workers consistently say they want and need and that rideshare drivers are already provided within the State of Alaska.

Instacart is the leading grocery technology company in North America, and we are proud to offer access to flexible earning opportunities for the more than 1,600 Alaskans. Shoppers – the individuals who pick, pack, and deliver orders — are often caretakers, parents, students, or retirees seeking alternatives to traditional employment or ways to supplement other income. In fact, over 80% of shoppers say they choose to shop on Instacart because of the independence it provides. Nationally, the vast majority of people who earn through our platform — including in Alaska — shop less than 10 hours a week on average¹. They have the freedom to choose when, where, and for how long they work without any set schedule, minimum commitment, or obligation.

In Alaska, Instacart partners with more than 25 retail banners in more than 130 stores, with almost half of those locations accepting EBT SNAP. By supporting these retailers, Instacart has helped add over 100 brick-and-mortar grocery jobs — from cashiers to store managers — across Alaska and approximately \$5.1 million in additional revenue for Alaska's grocers². Moreover, Instacart is happy to serve tens of thousands across the Frontier state.

Senate Bill 35 meets the needs of a modern and independent workforce by clarifying that individuals delivering essential goods on app-based platforms are properly classified as independent contractors, provided they meet the same specific criteria applied to rideshare drivers. This workforce enjoys unprecedented flexibility and many may choose to operate on multiple platforms across delivery and rideshare. This clarity will preserve parity for these workers whether they are driving on a rideshare platform or delivering food, prescriptions or other essential goods and put an end to needless uncertainty, which can undermine the flexibility and freedom that shoppers want and deserve.

Thank you again for introducing Senate Bill 35. By doing so, we can ensure a fair and equitable environment for the growing app-based workforce across Alaska. We urge the Legislature to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Jessica Lynam

Jessica Lynam
Government Affairs, Western U.S.

¹ <https://www.instacart.com/company/static/pdfs/economic-impact-2023.pdf>

² Industry data based on 2022 NERA Economic Consulting study.