LC Paper No. CB(4)641/18-19(02) (English version only)

From: "kwok kwong, ben cheng" **To**: panel_t@legco.gov.hk

Date: Friday, March 08, 2019 07:07PM Subject: objection—taxi fare increasing

History: This message has been forwarded.

Dear panel members,

Concerning the recent request of the taxi fare increasing by the taxi unions/organizations in HK, I object the fare increasing because the taxi services had never been really improved in recent years, such as refusing hire, overcharing and using other countries currency for changing etc.,

In addition, the fare increasing is only benefit to taxi companies or taxi organizations which hold hundreds of taxi licenses, and it is just a very little help for majorities of taxi drivers. Once taxi fare is increased, the rent for hiring a taxi is also increased and actually most of the benefits go to the pocket of taxi companies or taxi organizations. For those drivers earning a living, it is no big difference for them.

Furthermore, the taxi fares increasing is making a vicious circle whenever there is a taxi fare increasing, it is similar to the bad effect of the minimum wages increased every two years. I bet there will be coming requests from various types of transportation · such as mini bus and cable cars etc., Besides, it will also bring other fares increasing requests from major utilities companies such as electricity and gas.

Finally, even though I understand there is an inflation in the market, the increasing fare for inflation must be based on the average percentage in the market, such as the average wages increasing in HK. Therefore, the best is to frozen the fare increasing request if it is possible. Remember, we have the social responsibility to limit those unlimited desires for gaining more profits for those taxi companies or taxi organizations.

Your attention and consideration is appreciated.

Best Regards,

Ben Cheng