You say, “The Taxi Industry Inquiry has released its draft report *“****Customers First: Service, Safety, Choice****”* for public comment”.

Hang on, what about licence holders, you’ve forgotten that there are licence holders involved as well. Don’t you think licence holders livelihoods should come *“****First****”* as well. We want to bring to your attention that, although you might not think so, but, we think licence holders livelihoods are important and should also come *“****First****”.*

**WE ARE SCARED, VERY SCARED OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OUR FUTURE, SCARED WE COULD LOSE EVERYTHING WE NOW HAVE – WE ANGRY, VERY ANGRY AS WELL**. The draft recommendations cannot become reality.

Explain to us where in the draft recommendation is there anything to benefit the current licence holder. What would you do if you were a current licence holder? There are no incentives for having a licence in these proposed recommendations. We very much doubt you would make such recommendations if you or your family currently held taxi licences yourselves. You should protect the rights of licence holders too before you make any decisions otherwise the livelihoods of families are at risk and the government will be responsible for any drastic actions that might be taken out by any current licence holders .

We will give you an example of my situation:-

We had $150,000.00 owing on one and only licence. In the hope of a comfortable retirement life we decided to buy another licence for retirement income purposes. We assumed having a taxi licence was a good investment for our retirement. We planned for the future. We wanted to have a retirement income from our own investment, we did not want to be a burden on the government.

Two years ago we borrowed another $520,000.00 against our house and bought our second licence – at the moment we owe the bank $650,000.00. If the value of taxi licences go down even selling our house we will not be able to repay off the loan. What this means is that us and people like us will go bankrupt. Such action cannot be taken out against licence holders, no government can do this to its people. If the government decides to take this action then the government should pay enough compensation to cover the licence holders’ expenses and financial needs for those licence holders to live a comfortable life in retirement. Only under such compensation payout should such a drastic legislation be passed. Otherwise the government will be taking away the life savings of individual families and force them into bankruptcy – we believe and would like you to know that there will be a lot of suicides of which the government will be held responsible for.

**We want to be able sell our licences right now for at least $520,000.00 each. That’s how much we would have sold a house for RIGHT NOW if we had bought a house as investment instead of a taxi licence.**

We now have two licences which we hire out. Increase in taxis numbers means our licences lose value. We want to be able to make the monthly bank loan repayments from the licence hire income on the outstanding loan we have of which the current balance owing is $650,000.00. The value of the two licences we have are worth at least $520,000.00 each (we say each are worth this amount because we paid $510,000.00 for one licence we purchased a year ago). If the government brings in this new legislation then we believe that the government should buy our two licences for a minimum of $520,000.00 each plus compensation after which time we could start from scratch just like everybody else. As a result of these proposed draft recommendations we actually now want to sell both licences right now and buy a couple of houses and rent them out. Buying two homes for investment purposes will be risk free. All aspects of the draft report recommends that the value of current taxi licence be reduced from its previously purchased value of up to $520,000.00 per licence. **WE STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH THE PROPOSED DRAFT REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS IN RESPECT OF THE VALUE OF CURRENT LICENCES REDUCING - WE WILL STRONGLY BE AGAINST ANY SUCH DECISION**.

The government should buy our 2 licences from us and should pay at least $520,000.00 each for them after which time the government can do anything it wants in respect of the taxi industry because we do not want to be involved with this type of industry anymore, what’s the point. We can invest our money elsewhere for our future retirement. Instead of purchasing two taxi licences if we had invested the same amount of money and bought two houses and rented them out we would have been much better off. Don’t you people understand that if the value of our two licences drop then we will lose our family home and life savings. How can you be so ruthless and pretend not to know the consequences of such a decision and how all taxi licence holders feel about all of this because although you may pretend not to know and intentionally not mention the concerns of licence holders, we know that you do know very well.

You know that we licence holders are going to retaliate and therefore you are prepared for that because you mention you want funding for court actions. Whoever has thought about this draft recommendation and whoever is supporting it without thinking about the livelihoods of licence holders will be the ones responsible for destroying the lives of licence holders because should these draft recommendations become legislation then the lives of licence holders will be destroyed and should that happen then I hope your lives and your families lives are destroyed in some way or shape.

Having said all of the above I hope the draft recommendations do not bring the value of our licences down.