



Telecommunications Industry Association

1320 N. Courthouse Road Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22201

703-907-7700 • tiaonline.org

September 12, 2018

The Honorable John Thune, Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson, Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
United States Senate
425 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: S. 1885, A Vision for Safer Transportation through Advancement of Revolutionary Technologies Act (AV START Act)

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson:

On behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), I write to reiterate our strong support for Senate passage of S. 1885, the AV START Act. We appreciate your diligent leadership and that of the bill's cosponsors, which secured broad bipartisan support in Committee last fall. Senate action on this legislation would present a significant milestone to enhance U.S. roadway safety, provide greater independence to persons with disabilities and the elderly, and ensure America's leadership in an increasingly global and competitive marketplace.

As the leading trade association representing the global equipment manufacturers, vendors, and suppliers of information and communications technology (ICT), TIA recognizes the value for consumers and businesses of expeditious passage of the AV START Act. The high-speed communications networks, products and services that TIA members' build and enable are foundational for autonomous vehicle technologies and will help address our nation's current and future infrastructure, environmental and economic challenges.

From the potential to significantly reduce the number of vehicle crashes while simultaneously expanding mobility options, to decreasing congestion and carbon emissions, the AV START Act represents an historic opportunity. Government data indicates that approximately 94 percent of all vehicle crashes on U.S. roads are caused by human error, and it's estimated that more than 40,000 deaths--a preventable loss of life--related to motor vehicle collisions occurred in 2017.

This bill addresses roadway safety with innovative technologies while strengthening the necessary regulatory safeguards and oversight for the benefit of the public. It will set a clear federal framework for the safe testing, development and deployment of autonomous vehicle technologies, and protect against a patchwork of inconsistent state and local regulations that could stifle innovation that will save lives. Now is the time for Congress to establish a technology neutral regulatory framework that advances groundbreaking connectivity technologies while supporting research and investment in the United States.



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Thank you again for your leadership and continued efforts to secure Senate passage of this critically important legislation. TIA, its members and the ICT industry is committed to ensuring the benefits from an increasingly connected society and to advancing autonomous vehicle technologies for the benefit of all Americans. We respectfully urge all Senators to support S. 1885, the AV START Act, and strongly recommend the bill move to the Senate floor for swift passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Rogers", written in a cursive style.

Cinnamon Rogers
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)

CC: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Minority Leader
The Honorable Gary Peters, bill co-sponsor
The Honorable Roy Blunt, bill co-sponsor
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, bill co-sponsor
The Honorable Roger Wicker, bill co-sponsor