



February 11, 2020

The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky
Chair
Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee
U.S. House Committee on Energy & Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee
U.S. House Committee on Energy & Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Schakowsky and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

As companies and organizations dedicated to the safe development and deployment of automated vehicles (AVs) into our transportation system, we would like to thank the Committee for its continued focus on this issue and reinforce the importance of your work. Put simply, the investments being made today by our organizations toward a safer, more environmentally friendly, and accessible transportation future depends on a thoughtful federal legislative and regulatory framework for AVs.

We join today as members of the Coalition for Future Mobility, a group of key stakeholders that represents a wide cross section of auto manufacturers, suppliers, repairers, technology companies, mobility providers, state and local departments of transportation, safety and national security groups, consumers, seniors, and persons with disabilities. Our Coalition was created to highlight the critical need for a federal regulatory framework that allows for the safe development and deployment of AVs here in the United States.

As the Committee on Energy & Commerce holds today's hearing on automated vehicles, we write to underscore the critical role this Committee and Congress has in establishing that framework, including by providing clarity that affirms existing roles and maintains the traditional balance of responsibilities between federal-state-local levels of government, modernizes federal regulatory processes, and ensures rigorous safety standards for the continued development and eventual safe deployment of AV technologies.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has found that human choice or error is a factor in approximately 94% of all motor vehicle crashes on U.S. roads – crashes that took the lives of 36,560 men, women, and children in 2018. By facilitating technologies that could reduce or eliminate these human factors, this Committee can help prevent many crashes from happening – potentially reducing injuries and fatalities on our roadways.

While safety is a critical component in the development and deployment of AVs, these vehicles can also provide life-changing opportunities for those who are not adequately served by current mobility options, such as older adults, persons with disabilities, and those underserved by public transportation. Further, the benefits of these vehicles extend to all roadway users. Our Coalition is committed to AV deployment that can help ease congestion and gridlock, increase economic opportunities, and reduce environmental impact.



Building on the overwhelming bipartisan support in this Committee for AV legislation in the last Congress, our coalition encourages you and your colleagues to redouble efforts to move forward with thoughtful legislation that will help improve safety; provide a technology-neutral path forward to invest and innovate; affirm traditional federal-state-local authorities; and maintain American leadership in the development and deployment of AV technologies. While full text has yet to be released, we appreciate the continued bipartisan, bicameral work to develop the legislative and regulatory framework to help facilitate the development and deployment of these potentially life-saving technologies.

3M

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Alliance for Transportation Innovation

Alliance for Automotive Innovation

American Chemistry Council

American Council of the Blind

American Highway Users Alliance

American Network of Community Options and Resources

Americans for Tax Reform

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Argo AI, LLC

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Automotive Service Association

Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International

Competitive Enterprise Institute

Cruise

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Intel Corporation

ITS America

Lyft

Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association

Narcolepsy Network

National Association of Manufacturers

National Cued Speech Association

National Federation of the Blind

National Taxpayers Union

R Street Institute

Securing America's Future Energy

Segs4Vets

TechFreedom

TechNet

Telecommunications Industry Association

Third Way

U.S. Chamber Technology Engagement Center (C_TEC)

U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce

U.S. Tire Manufacturers

Via

What3Words

Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America

cc: Members of the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, Committee on Energy and Commerce