

March 5, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of key stakeholders that represent a wide cross section of auto and motorcycle manufacturers, suppliers, repairers, technology and communications companies, mobility providers, state and city governments, safety and national security groups, consumers, seniors, and persons with disabilities, we write to express our strong support for the Senate to take up and pass the AV START Act (S. 1885) as soon as possible.

In a strong showing of bipartisan support, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee unanimously approved the AV START Act last October. We believe that this legislation warrants expedited consideration to ensure that S. 1885 can be reconciled with its House counterpart legislation (H.R. 3388, the SELF DRIVE Act), which passed the full-House of Representatives by voice vote on September 6, 2017.

The Senate bill strengthens existing safety oversight by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and complements the iterative work of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) with respect to their highly automated vehicle policy guidance. Many of the concepts originally included in the DOT's highly automated vehicle guidance are also found in the AV START Act, including technology neutrality between automakers and technology companies. In addition, the legislation will help provide a clear delineation of federal and state roles with respect to highly automated vehicles—a critical aspect that will protect against a patchwork of regulations that could stifle innovation, job growth, and the development of safety technologies that will reduce the number of lives lost on U.S. roadways.

While there are a number of compelling reasons to expedite Senate floor consideration of the AV START Act, the most important factor is the potential lives that could be saved. DOT data shows that human choice or error is a factor in approximately 94 percent of all crashes on U.S. roads—crashes that took the lives of over 37,000 men, women, and children in 2016.

Development and eventual deployment of advanced vehicle technologies have the potential to significantly reduce the number of crashes and at the same time expand mobility options for persons with disabilities, seniors, and those who require access to more affordable transportation. Further, the decrease in crashes will mean fewer roadway backups, decreasing both congestion and carbon emissions from existing vehicles.

The AV START Act represents an historic opportunity for Congress to establish a technology neutral regulatory framework to advance these groundbreaking technologies while supporting research and investment in the United States. Due to these benefits, we believe this legislation will garner overwhelming bipartisan support in the U.S. Senate. With your help, the Senate and House legislative proposals can be reconciled to enable a final bill to be presented to the President for his signature later this year. Conversely, the lack of Congressional action on this important legislation will only cause uncertainty and delays in the development and ultimate deployment of such life-saving technologies.

We urge you to work with Chairman John Thune, Ranking Member Bill Nelson and Senator Gary Peters to see that the AV START Act is brought to the Senate floor for consideration before the Memorial Day recess.

Sincerely,

Advantage Rent-A-Car, Inc.
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, Inc.
Alliance for Transportation Innovation
American Car Rental Association

American Council of the Blind
American Foundation for the Blind
American Motorcyclist Association
American Highway Users Alliance
American Network of Community Options and Resources
Americans for Tax Reform
Aptiv
Argo AI, LLC
Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International
Association of Global Automakers
Auto Care Association
Automotive Service Association
Bandago Van Rental
BlackBerry
BMW Group of North America, LLC
car2go, N.A.
Competitive Enterprise Institute
Consumer Technology Association
Continental
Crown Castle
Cruise Automation
CTIA
Denso International America, Inc.
Digital Liberty
Disability Rights Advocates for Technology
Enterprise Holdings, Inc.
Fast Track Mobility LLC
FCA US, LLC
Ford Motor Company
Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility
General Motors

Geotab, Inc.
Harley-Davidson, Inc.
Harman
Honda North America, Inc.
Hyundai Motor Company
InstallerNet, Inc.
Intel Corporation
Intelligent Transportation Society of America
Internet Association
INRIX
Jack Cooper Logistics LLC
Jaguar Land Rover North America, LLC
Kia Motors
Luminar Technologies, Inc.
Lyft
Magna International
Maserati North America, Inc.
Mazda North American Operations
Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
Mitsubishi Motors
Mobile Electronics Association, Inc.
Mobileye
Mobility 4 All
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
Motorcycle Riders Foundation
National Cued Speech Association
National Federation of the Blind
National Taxpayers Union
Nexteer
Niskanen Center

Nissan North America, Inc.
nuTonomy
NVIDIA
NXP Semiconductors, USA
ON Semiconductor
Panasonic Corporation of North America
Porsche Cars North America, Inc.
Property Casualty Insurers Association of America
Qualcomm
Robert Bosch LLC
Securing America's Future Energy
Segs4Vets
Self Driving Coalition for Safer Streets
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Silvercar
SiriusXM Radio Inc.
State Van Rental
Subaru of America
R Street Institute
The Hertz Corporation
TechNet
Telecommunications Industry Association
Tesla, Inc.
Third Way
Toyota
Transportation Research Center, Inc.
U-Save Auto Rental
U.S. Chamber Technology Engagement Center ("C_TEC")
U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association
Velodyne LiDAR, Inc.
Via

Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

Volvo Car Corporation

What 3 Words

Xperi Corporation

ZF

Zoox

3M

60 Plus Association

cc: All U.S. Senators