

July 23, 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

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
511 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
Senate Commerce Committee
716 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Majority Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Chairman Thune, and Ranking Member Nelson:

On behalf of 108 key stakeholders that represent a wide cross section of auto manufacturers, suppliers, repairers, the motorcycle community, 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 Senate passage of the AV START Act (S. 1885).

Since the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation unanimously approved the AV START Act last October, concerted efforts have been made to address a variety of issues raised by Senators and various stakeholders to improve the overall bill to help establish a national framework for the safe testing and deployment of automated vehicles.

As we have written previously, the AV START Act will help strengthen 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.

Moreover, while there are a number of compelling reasons to pass the AV START Act, the most important factor is the potential for lives to 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.

In short, 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. As such, we respectfully urge all Senators to support S. 1885, the AV START Act, as it moves toward Senate consideration.

Sincerely,

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

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
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
Hella
Honda North America, Inc.
Hyundai Motor Company
Information Technology Industry Council
InstallerNet, Inc.
Intel Corporation
Intelligent Transportation Society of America
INRIX
Jack Cooper Logistics LLC
Jaguar Land Rover North America, LLC
Kia Motors
Luminar Technologies, Inc.
Magna International
Maserati North America, Inc.
Mazda North American Operations
Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
Midway Auto Group
Mitsubishi Motors
Mobile Electronics Association, Inc.
Mobileye
Mobility 4 All
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
Motorcycle Riders Foundation
NAFA Fleet Management Association
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
Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association
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
Recall Masters, Inc.
The Hertz Corporation
Telecommunications Industry Association
Tesla, Inc.
Third Way
Toyota
Transportation Research Center, Inc.
U-Save Auto Rental
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