

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