

Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association

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October 4, 2017

Senator James M. Inhofe
United States Senate
205 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe:

Thank you for your amendment on S. 1885, which would include trucks (vehicles over 10,000 gw) in the AV START Act.

MEMA represents vehicle suppliers for both light-duty and heavy-duty vehicles, and our suppliers play a leading role in developing advanced vehicle technologies for highly automated vehicles. More than 871,000 Americans are directly employed by the motor vehicle parts manufacturing industry, up 19% since 2012. Vehicle suppliers are the largest sector of manufacturing jobs in the United States, and contribute 77% of the value in today's vehicles.

We support the underlying legislation because it provides suppliers with the ability to test automated vehicle systems and components on public roads, and clarifies the distinction between federal and state regulation of highly automated vehicles. We appreciate the bipartisan efforts of Chairman Thune and Senator Peters in crafting the legislation.

We also support your amendment to include heavy-duty vehicles in the legislation for two main reasons: one, we believe trucks and cars should be subject to the same regulatory framework as Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards evolve; and two, as highly automated vehicles are tested on roadways it is critical that both light and heavy-duty vehicles collect data about how these vehicles recognize, respond, and interact with one another.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and thank you for putting forth the amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T.J. Lehner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Thomas J. Lehner
Vice President, Public Policy

