

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 107 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  
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