



American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators

July 17, 2023

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
House Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
Chair
Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and
Commerce

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and
Commerce

Dear Chair McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member Pallone, Chair Bilirakis, and Ranking Member Schakowsky:

On behalf of the nation’s state and local government elected and appointed officials, we urge Congress to once again reject legislation on autonomous vehicles (AVs) with provisions for any additional federal preemption of state and local authorities. State and local officials widely support a competitive American economy that embraces technology improvements including AVs, but we must integrate them in a manner that ensures safe operations which is the role of states and local governments. We should move beyond AV legislation that was widely rejected in the 115th, 116th, and 117th sessions of Congress and instead work together to advance AV legislation that rejects federal overreach and advances ingenuity in the design and manufacturing of AVs in America.

The regulation of motor vehicle safety, in the traditional manner (as defined in Title 49 Sections 30102 and 30111 which includes the design, construction and performance of a motor vehicle) is, and must remain, a federal obligation. However, state and local governments are the primary authorities over operational safety, including regulating both the operation of motor vehicles after such vehicles have been constructed and the operators of those motor vehicles. In addition, state and local governments hold the authority to establish the rules of the road and traffic laws for how motor vehicles can be safely operated on public roadways. For example, the federal government can require that a vehicle be able to properly identify and observe a stop sign, but the sole authority to establish laws requiring observation of such stop sign, and the enforcement

thereof, continue to reside with state and local authorities who are best suited to respond to local needs.

State and local governments stand ready to work with Congress to ensure the safe integration of AVs into our existing transportation networks, while guaranteeing continued safety on our nation's roadways and streets for all users.

National Conference of State Legislatures

National League of Cities

National Association of Counties

American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

Governors Highway Safety Association

United States Conference of Mayors