



March 16, 2018

Members of the U.S. Senate:

On behalf of Waymo and Uber Technologies -- two U.S.-based technology companies advancing fully self-driving technology (SAE Level 4 or 5 automation) -- **we encourage the Senate to quickly consider and pass S. 1885, the AV START Act.**

Fully self-driving technology, where the vehicle performs all driving functions within its operational domain, holds the promise to transform how people live, work, and move. As the U.S. Department of Transportation has determined, human error is responsible for 94 percent of crashes on U.S. roads -- crashes that resulted in 37,461 deaths in 2016 alone. Fully self-driving technology will be instrumental in addressing this problem and will help prevent tragedies on our roads. Developing a capable and safe automated driver means avoiding human error and never having to worry about a distracted, drunk, drugged, or tired driver.

In addition to the safety benefits, fully self-driving technology will expand transportation access to those currently unable to make use of traditional options. For seniors, persons with disabilities, and those underserved by transit, fully self-driving vehicles offer a new solution to support independent living and expand economic participation.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation unanimously approved the bipartisan AV START Act last October. Swift action by the Senate will allow the measure to be reconciled with its House companion (H.R. 3388, the SELF DRIVE Act), enabling the enactment of a landmark self-driving law this year.

Passage of this measure will further provide clarity to the relative responsibilities of the federal and state governments with respect to the regulation of highly automated vehicles. By preserving the historically successful federal-state paradigm for motor vehicle laws, the AV START Act would protect against a patchwork of regulations that could only delay or complicate the deployment of this important technology. Conversely, lack of Congressional action on this important legislation will cause uncertainty as to Congress's views on, and approach to, automated technology.

Self-driving technology, and the industry behind it, represents our nation's greatest strength: applying our entrepreneurial spirit to tackle tough problems. While the U.S. has always led the world in innovation other countries across Europe and Asia are also investing in this opportunity. We must not fall behind. Clear Congressional action will help the U.S. maintain our leadership position in innovation.

Passage of the AV START Act will help promote the safe and efficient deployment of self-driving technology, and help pave the way forward towards a new generation of American leadership in the technology and automotive industries. We urge you to pass the AV START Act in the coming weeks.