



July 24, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20590

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Ms. Lael Brainard
Director
National Economic Council
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Secretary Buttigieg, Secretary Raimondo, and Director Brainard:

The automotive sector is in the midst of an unprecedented transformation. There is no doubt that the next few years will be critical in establishing which nations will lead and shape automotive innovation and manufacturing into the future. For this reason, amid intense global competition, we seek your collaboration and cooperation in advancing the development and commercialization of autonomous vehicle (AV) technology in the U.S.

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation (“Auto Innovators”) represents the manufacturers that produce most of the cars and light trucks sold in the U.S., original equipment suppliers, technology companies, battery makers, and mobility companies within the automotive ecosystem. Representing approximately 5 percent of the country’s GDP that is responsible for supporting 10 million jobs, and driving \$1 trillion in annual economic activity, the automotive industry is the largest manufacturing sector in the U.S.

Leadership in automotive technology, innovation, and manufacturing has indisputably contributed to significant U.S. economic growth over the last century. However, as we look forward, our industry’s global leadership is far from certain. In the coming years, the auto industry’s economic footprint will be determined by the innovative automotive technologies shaping the future of transportation - including automation, electrification, and connectivity. It is not a question of whether or when these technologies will prosper, but where they will initially take hold and thrive. For this reason, nations around the world are moving aggressively to lead the development and deployment of these emerging automotive technologies. These nations have clearly recognized that, as we have witnessed with respect to other

sectors, those that lead the development of these technologies will also guide the development of international standards, control supply chains, and drive international markets.

At the center of this global competition for the future of the automotive industry is AV technology. The U.S. has long been at the forefront in the development and advancement of automated vehicle features and, more recently, AV technology. In December 2022, Auto Innovators released a [comprehensive report](#) on the AV industry in the U.S. which documented 84 AV companies operating in 120 cities across 30 states. This includes nearly 170 on-road autonomous technology programs operating throughout the U.S. These programs advance U.S.-based expertise in this key technology that is not only critical to maintaining U.S. leadership in the automotive sector, but also in cutting-edge artificial intelligence. Moreover, these programs contribute jobs, investment, tax revenue and local economic growth.

However, the ability of the U.S. to preserve its leadership in AV technology is in jeopardy due to the lack of a clear federal regulatory approach and framework that supports U.S.-based AV deployment at scale. To maintain the global competitiveness of our auto industry, the federal government must actively support and promote AV development and commercialization in the U.S. This includes rapidly accelerating efforts at the U.S. Department of Transportation to update existing motor vehicle safety standards to accommodate AVs, use its existing authority to grant targeted exemptions to AV developers that have demonstrated safety equivalence, and implement the innovative AV STEP program announced earlier this month to provide an enhanced deployment pathway for AVs in the near-term. In addition, federal policymakers must expeditiously implement the remaining recommendations included in the [AV Policy Roadmap](#) that Auto Innovators released in December of 2020.

The U.S. is well-positioned to maintain its long-standing leadership in automotive innovation and safety technologies, but doing so will require the clear commitment and support of the federal government. By promoting this new industry and implementing regulations to support AV deployment, governments in other parts of the world - in particular China and the European Union - are already well on their way to positioning themselves as the global center of AV development and deployment.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the U.S. remains a global leader in AV technology.

Sincerely,



John Bozzella
President & CEO

CC: The Honorable Charles Schumer, Senate Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives