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CTA.tech

May 9, 2025

The Honorable Jared Polis  
Governor, State of Colorado  
Colorado State Capitol  
200 E. Colfax  
Denver, CO 80203-1716

Dear Governor Polis:

On behalf of the Consumer Technology Association (CTA), I respectfully urge you to veto HB 1122, which would require a human commercial driver's license (CDL) holder to be present in any autonomous commercial motor vehicle. This legislation would significantly hinder the transformative potential of autonomous vehicle (AV) technology, restricting Colorado's ability to lead in transportation innovation and limiting the economic and safety benefits that automation provides.

CTA represents the \$505 billion U.S. consumer technology industry, which supports more than 18 million American jobs. Our membership spans over 1200 companies—including startups and small businesses—pioneering the development and deployment of autonomous and connected vehicle technologies.

Governor, you have long been recognized as a national leader in technology and a champion for emerging innovation. Your forward-looking leadership has positioned Colorado at the cutting edge of the clean energy transition, digital infrastructure, and tech-driven economic growth. CTA was especially encouraged by your recent joint letter with Colorado leaders urging the legislature to delay implementation of the Colorado AI Act until 2027—demonstrating your thoughtful approach to emerging technologies and the importance of getting regulation right. HB 1122, unfortunately, stands in stark contrast to that approach. It would mark a step backward at a time when other states—including Arizona, Texas, and Florida—are competing aggressively to attract AV investment and jobs.

Autonomous trucking offers immense safety benefits by addressing the root causes of 94% of traffic accidents: human error. AVs are engineered to eliminate risks tied to fatigue, distraction, and speeding—factors that contributed to over 43,000 traffic deaths in 2022, including more than 11,000 from speeding alone. These technologies are not theoretical—they are being tested and deployed today, with the potential to save lives and improve mobility for all Coloradans.



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The economic implications are equally profound. With the U.S. trucking industry facing a shortage projected to reach 160,000 drivers by 2030, autonomous trucks can help bridge that gap, working alongside human drivers to meet surging freight demands. A joint U.S. DOT and FHWA study estimates that long-haul automation could generate \$111 billion in investment, create tens of thousands of new jobs annually, and boost wages nationwide.

Colorado has already laid strong groundwork through CDOT's Connected and Autonomous Technology Program (CAT). Enacting HB 1122 would not only undermine this momentum—it would risk signaling to AV companies that Colorado is adverse to deploying this vibrant and critical technology.

Governor Polis, you have a unique opportunity to reinforce Colorado's role as a national leader in safe, smart transportation. I urge you to veto HB 1122 and continue championing policies that enable innovation, economic growth, and safer roads for the future.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary Shapiro  
CEO and Vice Chair  
Consumer Technology Association