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Arlington, VA 22202
703-907-7600
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June 25, 2025

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bilirakis and Ranking Member Schakowsky,

On behalf of the Consumer Technology Association (CTA)® and its more than 1,200 member companies, thank you for your leadership in convening the June 26 hearing, “NHTSA and Motor Vehicle Safety.” CTA is North America’s largest technology trade association representing the U.S. consumer technology industry, which supports more than 18 million American jobs. Our members include the innovators shaping the future of mobility—from vehicle manufacturers and software developers to transportation platforms and component suppliers.

As Congress looks to reauthorize National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), we encourage a forward-thinking approach that accelerates safety, innovation, and American competitiveness. We support the U.S. Department of Transportation’s recently announced innovation agenda, which provides a much-needed framework to promote emerging mobility technologies while maintaining national consistency. Secretary Sean Duffy’s approach signals that the United States is ready to lead in the global race to modernize transportation.

There is no better example of this opportunity for American leadership than with self-driving vehicles. Nearly 40,000 Americans die on our roads every year—most due to human error. Autonomous vehicle technologies offer the best chance to dramatically reduce these tragedies. Unlike human drivers, self-driving systems don’t get distracted, tired, or impaired. The opportunity to save lives at scale is real, and federal policy must support rather than stall that progress.

Beyond safety, autonomous vehicles also expand freedom. For older Americans, veterans, and people with disabilities, self-driving cars provide a new path to independence. These innovations are not theoretical—they are in testing and use today. What they need is a clear federal regulatory path, not a minefield of conflicting state laws.

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That's why we were proud to support the nominations of Jonathan Morrison as NHTSA Administrator and Seval Oz as Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology. Mr. Morrison's legal and regulatory expertise is exactly what the agency needs at this pivotal moment. Ms. Oz brings decades of hands-on experience in mobility innovation and public-private collaboration. These nominees reflect a commitment to safety, innovation, and American leadership.

At the same time, we are concerned about a growing wave of state legislation attempting to impose conflicting requirements on autonomous vehicle deployment. Innovation cannot scale when governed by a patchwork of state mandates. Congress must act to ensure national policy governs this national technology.

We are equally concerned by efforts to mandate AM radio in new vehicles. AM radio is not the future. Modern communications tools provide far better, more resilient emergency alerts and information access. Requiring legacy technology in today's vehicles only adds cost, stifles innovation, and distracts from real priorities—like advancing self-driving vehicles that can save lives and create jobs.

Now is the time for bold leadership. The U.S. auto industry is a cornerstone of our economy and a platform for global innovation. We urge the Committee to stay focused on enabling the future—not entrenching the past.

Thank you again for your leadership. We look forward to working with you to ensure that U.S. transportation policy continues to support safety, choice, and innovation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary Shapiro", with a stylized, cursive script.

Gary Shapiro
CEO and Vice Chair

Cc: Chairman Brett Guthrie, House Energy and Commerce Committee
Ranking Member Frank Pallone, House Energy and Commerce Committee