

June 27, 2022

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

As CEOs, co-founders, leaders, and allied organizations of the autonomous trucking industry ecosystem, we are working each day to do something uniquely Californian—harness innovation to solve some of the world’s biggest challenges, including road safety and the supply chain crisis. Many of us are proud to be building autonomous trucking technology in the Golden State or have communities or operations that seek to leverage autonomous trucking to better serve California. Yet currently, we are unable to bring the benefits of autonomous trucks to the state.

This is because the California Department of Motor Vehicles (“DMV”) explicitly prohibited the operation of autonomous trucks in prior proceedings, suggesting that rules to authorize this important technology were better left to a future regulatory proceeding. Over the ensuing years, there has been regular engagement with your office, the DMV, the California Highway Patrol (“CHP”), California State Transportation Agency (“CalSTA”), and other stakeholders, providing transparent updates and addressing questions as autonomous trucking technology has matured.

A new study from the Silicon Valley Leadership Group Foundation found that autonomous trucking technology can add \$6.5 billion in economic activity to California while bringing greater efficiency to our supply chain, spurring wage gains and job growth.¹ On the heels of this economic report, the tragic, “crisis-level” truck-related crash data² just released by NHTSA, and the growing truck driver shortage, it is time to begin the regulatory process.

Without regulations to permit this technology, California is at risk of losing our competitive edge. As the industry deploys new pilot programs, builds critical infrastructure, and creates the 21st-century jobs California’s businesses need to grow, investment is limited to other states that allow deployment of autonomous trucks. In effect, it has been ten years since the initial 2012 enabling legislation, and over this period, there has been no movement for autonomous trucking regulation. We are now asking your Administration to initiate a thoughtful rulemaking process that gives autonomous trucks a chance to work for California and Californians—making our state the global hub for the technology that will define the future of transportation.

¹ Silicon Valley Leadership Group Foundation, Autonomous long-haul trucking stands to grow the Golden State’s economy while creating jobs and raising wages without mass driver layoffs (April 13, 2022), <https://www.svlg.org/study-shows-autonomous-trucking-will-grow-californias-economy/>.

² John Gallagher, Truck crash deaths jump 13% to ‘crisis’ level, Freight Waves (May 17, 2022), <https://www.freightwaves.com/news/truck-crash-fatalities-jump-13-to-crisis-level>.

You said it best in 2015 when the DMV established roadblocks to autonomous vehicle testing and deployment, indicating: *“We must guard against unreasonably holding back California from doing what it does best, inventing the future.”*³

We welcome the opportunity to work with you to urgently develop a safe, thoughtful regulatory framework to permit autonomous trucks in the state. We respectfully request an opportunity to meet with you directly to discuss how action by your Administration can prompt further investments in California as the industry deploys this technology and delivers results for the Golden State’s consumers and businesses.

Sincerely,

Chris Urmson, Co-Founder & CEO, Aurora
Ariel Wolf, General Counsel, Autonomous Vehicle Industry Association
Brian Wynne, President & CEO, AUVSI
Jim Wunderman, President & CEO, Bay Area Council
Adam Kovacevich, Founder & CEO, Chamber of Progress
Gary Shapiro, President & CEO, Consumer Technology Association
Jim Monkmeyer, President, Transportation, DHL Supply Chain
Alex Rodrigues, CEO & Co-Founder, Embark
Robert Falck, Founder & CEO, Einride
Gautam Narang, CEO & Co-Founder, Gatik
Don Burnette, Co-Founder & CEO, Kodiak
Çetin Meriçli, CEO & Co-Founder, Locomotion
Kimberly Mosley, President, Los Altos Chamber of Commerce
Catherine Somers, Executive Director, Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce
Austin Russell, Founder & CEO, Luminar
Peter Katz, President & CEO, Mountain View Chamber of Commerce
Charlie Weidanz, CEO, Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce
David Liu, Founder & CEO, Plus
Bettie Owen, President, Rainbow Chamber of Commerce
Jerry Sanders, President & CEO, San Diego Chamber of Commerce
Chuck Page, President, Saratoga Chamber of Commerce
Sammuel Washington, President, Silicon Valley Black Chamber of Commerce
Ahmad Thomas, CEO, Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Dawn Maher, CEO, Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce

³ Marco della Cava, Google Fires Back on Self-Driving Car Rules, USA Today (Dec. 17, 2015), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2015/12/17/google-fires-back-proposed-self-driving-car-rules/77500484/>.

Nathan Mintz, CEO & Founder, Spartan Radar
Linda Moore, President & CEO, TechNet
Xiaodi Hou, CEO, TuSimple
Lior Ron, Head of Uber Freight
Scott Bremerman, Sr. Vice President of Operations, UPS
Eric Fuller, President & CEO, US Xpress
Ted Tewksbury, CEO, Velodyne Lidar
Nils Jaeger, President and Head of Volvo Autonomous Solutions, (a Volvo Group Company)
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Toks Omishakin, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)
Steve Gordon, Director, California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
Dee Dee Myers, Director, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)
Amanda Ray, Commissioner, California Highway Patrol (CHP)
Sean Duryee, Deputy Commissioner, California Highway Patrol (CHP)