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New Study Shows Economic Benefits of Autonomous Vehicle Technology

Washington, DC –A new study asserts that widespread deployment of autonomous vehicle (AV) technologies could revolutionize the economy and puts forth recommendations on how to prepare the American workforce for the jobs of tomorrow.

The report, titled "America's Workforce and the Self-Driving Future: Realizing Productivity Gains and Spurring Economic Growth" was released by Secure America's Future Energy (SAFE). SAFE is a nonprofit organization that supports energy independence for the United States and advocates for the safety and mobility benefits AV technologies hold for the traveling public.

Some key takeaways from the report include:

- AVs will add between \$3 to \$6 trillion in cumulative consumer and societal benefits to the U.S. economy by 2050
- A study of traffic patterns and job locations found that some economically depressed regions could see improved access to large job markets for their residents through increased mobility related to the deployment of AVs.
- Accident reduction: Using a conservative methodology that assumes AVs would only address crashes
 resulting from a gross driver error (e.g. distraction, alcohol, and speeding), the annual benefit would
 exceed \$500 billion.
- Lower costs for products and services from the use of AVs will benefit the broader economy and lead to households with more disposable income.
- While there is potential for disruption in the workforce from widespread AV deployment, broader benefits to our economy and society will enable workers to transition to new opportunities, while other job openings will occur in companies that produce and design components and software for AVs.

"Self-driving technologies will have an enormously positive impact on our country, our economy, and our society. This is an opportunity too great to ignore and now is the time to prepare and implement policies that will unlock these myriad benefits and mitigate any negative impacts of this technological shift," said Robbie Diamond, President and CEO of SAFE. "There is a balance we must strike to realize the billions in economic savings from increased travel access and productivity, to reduced congestion and fewer accidents. The more we maximize the economic and productivity benefits while minimizing any potential impacts on job holders, the better off our country and workforce will be."

Sadly, an average of 37,000 lives are lost each year on American roadways. Government data identifies driver behavior or error as a factor in 94 percent of crashes, and self-driving vehicles can help reduce driver error by reducing the devastation of impaired driving, drugged driving, unbelted vehicle occupants, speeding and distraction.

SAFE is a member of the Coalition for Future Mobility, which urges Congress to pass bipartisan legislation that will accelerate life-saving technology by allowing the safe testing and deployment of automated vehicles.

The House of Representatives passed The SELF DRIVE Act last fall, and the Senate is now considering the AV START ACT. Both bills would help remove existing barriers to technological and automotive innovation, as well as improve safety and mobility for Americans nationwide.

The full executive summary of and the report from SAFE can be found here

Find out more about the Coalition for Future Mobility's campaign and the benefits of self-driving vehicles at: https://coalitionforfuturemobility.com/

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