



Ford Autonomous Vehicles LLC

**The Factory in Corktown
1907 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48216**

September 6, 2018

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Thune, Nelson, and Peters:

As the Chief Executive Officer of Ford Autonomous Vehicles LLC, I write to thank you for your ongoing efforts to move S. 1885, the AV START Act, forward. Without question, the potential benefits of autonomous vehicles, ranging from increased safety to greater mobility access, will transform transportation in the United States. That opportunity, however, will be missed if the Senate does not pass the AV START Act and reconcile it with its House counterpart, H.R. 3388, the SELF DRIVE Act.

We have the chance to transform mobility into something that is safer and more efficient, while at the same time create jobs and propel our country's technological leadership for generations to come. Ford and our competitors are investing billions of dollars in developing autonomous vehicle technology. These investments are breathing new life into cities and creating competition among industries where little existed before. Absent prompt enactment of federal legislation, there are very real concerns that we will cede our competitive advantage and all the potential benefits it promises to other countries more willing to take decisive action.

Ford is deeply committed to developing and deploying autonomous vehicles in a safe, responsible manner. In fact, we recently published a Voluntary Safety Self-Assessment (attached for your review) that provides a comprehensive account of how we develop and test our autonomous vehicles, always keeping safety at top of mind. What is still lacking is a strong federal framework that supports the near and long-term development and safe deployment of autonomous vehicles. The AV START Act contemplates precisely that framework and ensures an appropriate delineation of federal, state, and local responsibilities necessary to the safe oversight and regulation of these vehicles.

We have made significant investments in the future of safe transportation and are proud of the work that is being done here in the United States. On behalf of Ford, I urge you and your fellow Senate colleagues to pass the AV START Act as expeditiously as possible in order to ensure that Ford and countless others can continue the critical work that will unlock the tremendous potential associated with automated vehicle technologies.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherif Marakby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sherif Marakby
Chief Executive Officer
Ford Autonomous Vehicles LLC

Enc.

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Roy Blunt
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Roger Wicker
U.S. Senate

