

September 14, 2018

The Honorable John Thune, Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson, Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters
United States Senate
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, and Senator Peters:

On behalf of the Association of Global Automakers, which represents the U.S. operations of international motor vehicle manufacturers, original equipment suppliers, and other automotive-related trade associations, I write to thank you for your continued leadership on the AV START Act (S.1885). With the passage of this important bill, Congress has the opportunity this year to enact legislation that will save thousands of lives and transform mobility for millions of Americans.

In 2017, over 37,000 people died in the United States as a result of a motor vehicle crashes; nearly 94 percent of these fatalities were caused by human driving error. Our member companies have made significant investments in the development of automated vehicle technology. Today, safety features such as emergency braking, lane keeping assist and automated cruise control are mitigating crashes. These automated safety features are a fundamental feature in the development of more highly automated systems, including self-driving vehicles.

The AV START Act provides the robust framework needed to ensure that the United States remains a leader in the development and deployment of these cutting edge, lifesaving technologies. It is critically important for the Senate to act now and pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,



John Bozzella
President and CEO, Association of Global Automakers

CC: The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate

The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate