



September 5, 2018

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

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

The Honorable Gary Peters
U.S. Senate
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

I am writing to urge your continued support for S. 1895, the *AV START Act*, and your efforts to ensure that the legislation, which passed out of the Senate Commerce Committee unanimously in October, is brought before the full Senate for passage.

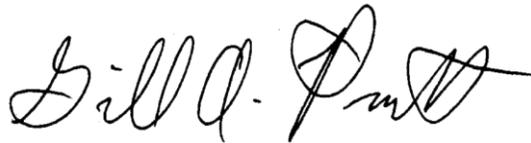
Toyota is committed to automated driving technology and believes that this technology will play a critical role in helping eliminate traffic fatalities and injuries. Our commitment to this technology follows from our long-standing commitment to safer driving and our stated goal of developing a car incapable of causing a crash. As we continue our work towards more advanced automated systems, we are actively working to ensure consumers enjoy the benefits of our research sooner by making active safety technology and advanced driver assistance systems available across Toyota and Lexus vehicles.

At the same time, at Toyota, we see the potential for autonomous driving technology to help people – particularly those who cannot currently drive because of a disability or advanced age - enjoy new levels of independence and mobility. Our work on autonomous driving technology is part of our continued effort to improve lives by giving everyone in our society the freedom to move. By creating autonomy for cars, Toyota's ultimate goal is to expand autonomy for people.

The *AV START Act* is important to realizing these goals. The legislation establishes a needed federal framework for highly autonomous vehicles and creates clear rules of the road for developers. Among other things, it will task the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) with establishing new safety standards and updating existing standards that may be inconsistent or incompatible with highly autonomous vehicles. As the technology continues to mature, it will enable NHTSA to collect the real-world data it needs to establish and update these safety standards. It will also require developers to conduct a safety assessment before testing or deploying the technology on public roads, providing for greater transparency on these efforts for the public and policymakers alike.

Without this legislation, the lack of regulatory clarity and certainty that exists today is likely to stifle development, delay the technology's benefits, and challenge the U.S.'s global leadership in automated driving innovation. As a result, we strongly urge passage of the *AV START Act*. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gill A. Pratt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "P".

Gill A Pratt, Ph.D.
CEO, Toyota Research Institute
Fellow, Toyota Motor Corporation

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