



September 6, 2018

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

The Honorable Gary Peters
United States Senate
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Senator Peters:

Thank you for your leadership on the AV START Act (S. 1885) which encourages testing and deployment of highly automated vehicles on US roadways. Volvo Cars supports your efforts to ensure passage of this important legislation this year. Globally, Volvo Cars is at a pivotal point in the development of autonomous technology, and therefore, we need the ability to test and deploy our cars in real-life situations around the world.

According to the US crash causation study, 94% of all crashes are due to human error. In 2016, traffic fatalities remain at epidemic levels. At Volvo Cars, we are appalled that 1.2 million people are killed in traffic crashes annually – with 35,000 of those deaths occurring in the U.S. alone. Advances in autonomous and active safety technologies will be essential to reduce this number dramatically.

Safety is a founding principle of Volvo Cars and so we work hard to stay at the forefront of the industry by taking an overall approach to safety. So autonomous and active safety systems are critical for Volvo Cars Vision 2020 goal. Volvo's vision 2020 states that no one should be killed or seriously injured in a new Volvo by 2020.

In addition, autonomous driving will have a short term and a long term impact on congestion and the environment. These improvements will lead to improved fuel efficiency and a reduction in carbon emissions globally. So the safety and environmental benefits are clear but the AV START Act is needed to ensure we have an effective consumer education program and a consistent national framework on AD operation.

Currently in the US, there is a patchwork of varying state requirements and proposals that could deter AD technology. Over the last few years, about 33 states have introduced over 124 different bills on autonomous vehicles. Thus, the US runs the risk of slowing down the development and introduction of autonomous driving technologies by making it difficult for car makers to test, develop, certify, and sell AD cars.

The AV START Act provides the necessary national framework for the development and deployment of automated driving systems. Therefore, we urge you to continue your efforts to pass this legislation and resolve differences with the House counterpart bill (H.R. 2288), so the development of these technologies can continue without delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anders Gustafsson".

Anders Gustafsson
SVP Americas, and
President & CEO Volvo Car USA

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
The Honorable Bill Nelson
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
The Honorable Roger Wicker

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