

March 13, 2019

Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman, Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Jan Schakowsky
Chairwoman, CPAC Subcommittee
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member, CPAC Subcommittee
1035 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, Chairwoman Schakowsky, and Ranking Member Rodgers

In 2017, 10,874 lives were lost due to drunk driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the crashes that caused these deaths were part of the 94% of all vehicle crashes that are due to human choice or error.

The Coalition for Future Mobility, a diverse, multi-stakeholder group representing auto manufacturers, suppliers, repairers, technology and communications companies, mobility providers, state and city governments, safety and national security groups, consumers, seniors, persons with disabilities, and others, writes to underscore the critical role automated vehicles (AVs) could play in reducing the number of lives lost due to drunk, drugged, distracted, and otherwise impaired driving.

The current federal regime, which was established before AVs came about, risks stymieing the timely roll-out of this life-saving technology. We hope that the details uncovered at this hearing serve as a solemn reminder that the status quo of driving fatalities cannot be considered acceptable, and encourage you to work on taking up legislation that promotes safely developing and deploying automated vehicle technology without delay.

Further information on the potential benefits of AV technology and bipartisan AV legislation can be found on the attached letter dated February 26, 2019. We at CFM look forward to working with you to help address the scourge of drunk driving, as well as many of the other causes of the loss of life on U.S. roadways.

The Coalition for Future Mobility