



## NATIONAL CONSUMERS LEAGUE

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February 4, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

The National Consumers League (NCL) respectfully submits this letter for the hearing titled *“Hit the Road, Mac: The Future of Self-Driving Cars.”* We applaud the Committee for exploring opportunities to support the safe and responsible deployment of autonomous vehicles (AVs).

NCL believes in the promise of AV technology. Technology that performs the entirety of the driving task safely, reliably, and free of behaviors that have contributed to the unacceptable number of crashes, injuries, and deaths on our nation’s roads each year. Technology that provides convenient, affordable transportation services for those who lack access to traditional mobility services, who are disabled, or who are elderly. Technology that more effectively and efficiently ships freight and delivers goods.

We also recognize that technology is only as reliable as its human developers. Without appropriate safeguards in place, the race to develop AVs may become a race to the bottom, where deploying quickly supersedes deploying safely and responsibly. Troubling safety incidents, regulatory black holes, and lax oversight threaten to disrupt this critical balance and the future of this technology itself. AVs will not save lives if they do not operate safely and adhere to state and local traffic laws. They will not bridge the mobility divide if we weaken enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act and preempt state and local accessibility laws. AVs will not benefit society if crash victims and their families do not have the right to seek justice in the courts. AVs will not create jobs and grow wages if we don’t address how AVs may displace workers. AVs will not improve public health or the environment if congestion management and tailpipe emission laws are invalidated.

For self-driving cars to succeed, appropriate safeguards must be in place. We support establishing a federal framework to ensure that the automated driving system (ADS)—the suite of sensors and software driving the AV—meets the need for motor vehicle safety and urge lawmakers to ensure that AVs comply with applicable safety standards. We urge Congress to protect Americans’ rights to access the courts and preserve the appropriate role of state and local governments. We also encourage Congress to consider the workforce impacts of AV

technologies that could jeopardize the livelihoods of millions of Americans gainfully employed in the driving profession.

We thank you for considering our perspective on autonomous vehicles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel M. Greene". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Daniel" on the first line and "M. Greene" on the second line.

Daniel Greene  
Senior Director of Consumer Protection & Product Safety  
The National Consumers League