

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 18, 2018

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Housing and Urban  
Development, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Housing and Urban  
Development, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Reed:

As you move toward conclusion of the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) appropriations process, we write to express our strong support for robust funding for the testing and development of connected and automated vehicle (CAV) technology at the proving grounds officially designated by the Department of Transportation (USDOT).

The auto industry is in the midst of a seismic technological shift that will revolutionize the transportation of people and goods in our lifetime. Connected and self-driving cars can dramatically reduce the more than 37,000 lives lost on our roads and highways every year and fundamentally transform the way we get around.

Ensuring that American innovators can safely develop and implement this technology will not only save lives but also solidify our nation's position as the world leader in the future of mobility. Connected and automated vehicles are being developed internationally, and we risk the erosion of our leadership position if we do not take steps to facilitate the continued advancement of these technologies in the United States. It is critical that the federal government play a leadership role in ensuring that CAV technologies are safely developed and tested.

USDOT, recognizing this urgent need, last year solicited proposals from facilities across the country to be designated as Automated Vehicle Proving Grounds. The intent was to form an initial network of proving grounds focused on the advancement of automated vehicle technology.

After evaluating more than 60 applicants under a rigorous and detailed set of selection criteria, USDOT chose ten proving grounds. Together, those facilities collectively form a federal Community of Practice around the safe testing and deployment of CAV and related data technologies.

Identifying and selecting these initial proving grounds was a crucial first step, but USDOT must now be given the resources to use these facilities to their maximum potential and pave the way for the safe deployment of these technologies. We therefore urge robust funding for

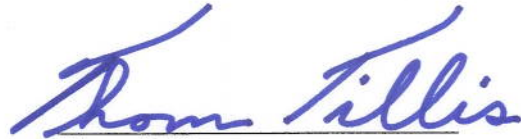
research and development of CAV technologies. Furthermore, USDOT should be directed to use such funds for safety research and testing at the USDOT-designated proving grounds.

Thank you for your consideration of our request, and we look forward to working with you to advance the development of this lifesaving technology. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Lot Kwarteng with Senator Stabenow at 202-224-2166.

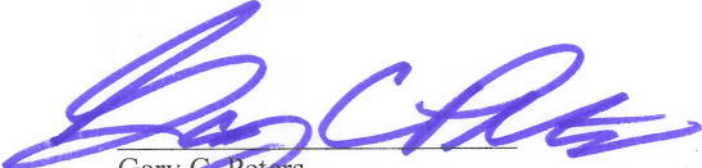
Sincerely,



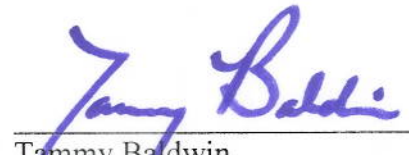
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Bill Nelson  
United States Senator