

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

March 21, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the Michigan Mobility Collaborative Application for Automated Driving System Demonstration Grants

Dear Secretary Chao:

We are writing in connection with the Federal Highway Administration's recent Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Automated Driving System (ADS) Demonstration Grants (Funding Opportunity No. 693JJ319NG00001). We thank you for your commitment to this program, which will promote safety in the development and implementation of ADS and other driving automation systems and technologies, and we urge your full consideration of the Michigan Mobility Collaborative Application.

As you know, communities and the auto industry are in the midst of a seismic technological shift that will revolutionize the transportation of people and goods in our lifetime. Connected and autonomous vehicles, and their integration into the transportation system, can reduce dramatically the lives lost on our roads and highways each year. The demonstration grants to be funded under this NOFO will help evaluate and demonstrate the value and safety of these technologies.

The State of Michigan is unquestionably the world's leader in connected and automated vehicle technology. It is estimated that 76% of the U.S. auto industry's research and development happens in Michigan, and the state ranks number one in advanced automotive industry jobs. Michigan is at the epicenter for all things mobility. We are therefore proud to express our support for the grant application being put forward by the Michigan Mobility Collaborative.

The groups collaborating in this effort include: the American Center for Mobility (ACM); the Michigan Department of Transportation; the cities of Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Grand Rapids; MCity; the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute; Wayne State University; Deloitte; and Ford Motor Company's "City: One" program.

As detailed in its application, the Michigan Mobility Collaborative will:

- 1) develop a process to evaluate the safety of automated driving systems from simulation to test tracks to real world testing on Detroit streets; and
- 2) conduct a human-centered design process to develop future services and business models around autonomous vehicles that improve the quality of life for the senior population in cities.

The world-class Michigan team is uniquely positioned to provide the Department with analysis and feedback through a continuum starting with research and development at the Transportation Research Institute, accreditation and safety testing at ACM, real world testing on the streets of Detroit, and commercialization by Ford. Moreover, the Collaborative will partner with other interested parties including Verizon, Henry Ford Health Systems, HAP (a Michigan-based nonprofit health plan), and AARP.

As Members of the Michigan delegation, we urge support for the Michigan Mobility Collaborative application. We strongly believe the expertise and innovation of these experts can fulfill and exceed the Department's objectives for this program, and we look forward to continuing to work with you and the Department to promote the safe development and integration of ADS technologies across the United States.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



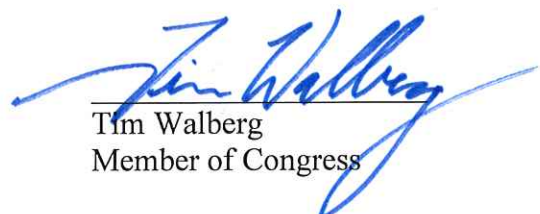
Fred Upton  
Member of Congress



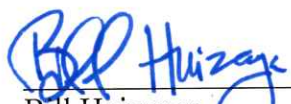
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee  
Member of Congress




Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress


  
Brenda Lawrence  
Member of Congress

  
Rashida Tlaib  
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John Moolenaar  
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Paul Mitchell  
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Haley Stevens  
Member of Congress

  
Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress

  
Andy Levin  
Member of Congress