

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-1303

May 9, 2016

The Honorable Mark Rosekind  
Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Rosekind:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comment for the docket on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's April 27<sup>th</sup> hearing regarding guidelines for the safe deployment of automated safety technology. I am pleased that NHTSA is partnering with industry stakeholders to foster a collaborative dialogue on this important issue.

I commend the administration for their forward-thinking approach on automated vehicles. NHTSA's decision to use existing authorities to issues interpretations and guidelines, rather than regulation, while working collaboratively with the industry will enable grater innovation as these technologies are developed and tested by industry. In addition to working with industry, it will be important for the federal government to continue its outreach to the states, in support of developing a strong, consensus-based national policy framework.

As a member of both the Transportation and Infrastructure and Science, Space, and Technology committees, I have strongly supported research on connected and automated vehicle technology. I was a co-author of the Future TRIP Act, of which key provisions became law in the FAST Act. Specifically, the language directed the Department of Transportation (DOT) to create update its strategic research plan and to focus resources on top priorities. In a time when the technology that enables automated vehicles is rapidly advancing, I firmly believe that we must continue to promote research and development with the goal of full deployment of automated vehicles on our roads and highways.

As connected and automated vehicles move from concept to mainstream, it will be important to balance safety with promoting innovation. In order to build effective operational guidance, NHTSA will need data to evaluate the safety performance and roadworthiness of new technology. Any such consideration must include the myriad scenarios and dynamic environments in which these vehicles will operate, and how the technology will adapt to rapidly changing road and traffic conditions.

I am encouraged by the progress that has been made to date, but much work remains. We must proceed forward in a manner that promotes safety without constraining innovation. Ultimately, automated vehicles are a transformative, lifesaving technology that will increase mobility, decrease congestion, and improve the overall efficiency of our nation's transportation network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Lipinski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Daniel Lipinski  
Member of Congress