



March 10, 2022

Honorable Mike Petersen
Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation
300 SW 10th Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Support of Senate Bill 546

Chair Petersen,

On behalf of the Alliance for Automotive Innovation (Auto Innovators), thank you for the opportunity to express our support of SB 546 as written. The Auto Innovators appreciates the work of the sponsor, chair, revisor, and stakeholders to find a bill that will not only welcome AV technology to Kansas, but also to provide a basic framework for the state to operate under.

The bill in its current form, reflects countless conversations, emails, and redlines, but it is still a work in progress and we remain committed to working with the working group of stakeholders to find compromise language and workable solutions.

We appreciate some of the changed elements of the bill that provide consistency such as the use of "ADS-equipped vehicle" and the use of the SAE definitions and terms.

There were concerns regarding law enforcement interaction and the bill now provides steps and information to address stakeholder those concerns. And additional language is agreed to by the parties. Any AV that operates in the state will be required to operate under the motor vehicle safety laws and regulations "or rules of the road" that are currently in statute. This includes like:

- Adhering to speed limits, traffic lights, stop signs, etc
- The use of blinkers/signals when changing lanes
- Registration and titling
- Holding insurance coverage
- And reporting of collisions

The bill allows levels 3-5 AVs to operate in the state. However, there is a requirement for a safety driver in a driverless-capable vehicle for a year for any vehicle placed into service. We suggest that "clock" on this should start from the beginning of the technology being placed into service in the state, at a minimum.

An advisory committee is created to further engage stakeholders within the state and industry. To maximize this group, we believe that it may be better to frame it an advisory group instead of solely legislative. The advisory group should serve as a venue for information sharing to see what is working or not, what needs exist from the state and/or industry, and any potential changes that may be needed to the statute. It may be more helpful to have liaisons from the state agencies, academia, labor, and representatives from the auto manufacturing, AV development, and AV manufacturing to provide a broader input on the issues.

We anticipate further engagement with the committee, agencies, and other stakeholders within the state and remain focused on shaping the bill into one that provides consistency with surrounding state AV laws. Safety is the top priority for automakers and a primary goal for the development of ADS-equipped vehicles. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on SB546.

Leighton Yates, Director State Affairs

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leighton Yates".

