

January 8, 2018

The Honorable Joseph E. Robach
Chair, Senate Standing Committee on Transportation
188 State Street Room 711, Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL 4807 - REPEALS A PROVISION OF LAW RELATING TO THE CONTROL OF A STEERING MECHANISM - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Robach:

Global Automakers, www.globalautomakers.org, represents the U.S. operations of international motor vehicle manufacturers, original equipment suppliers, and other automotive-related trade associations. We work with industry leaders, legislators, regulators, and other stakeholders in the United States to create public policies that improve motor vehicle safety, encourage technological innovation and addresses environmental needs. Our members are making significant investments and progress in the research and development of automated vehicles. In 2016, our members were responsible for 49% of new vehicle sales and 68% of green vehicle sales in the state of New York.

Global Automakers appreciates the state of New York taking a proactive posture towards addressing autonomous vehicle technologies. When considering whether to pursue automated vehicle legislation, we strongly encourage states to first ask “Is this legislation necessary for the safe testing and deployment of automated vehicles?” then identify and remove barriers to automated vehicle advancement (for all levels of automation). States must tread very carefully in this area, because they may unwittingly do more harm than good. S.B. 4807 is an example of a state identifying a specific impediment and seeking to remove a barrier to innovation. Global Automakers supports removing this specific barrier.

It is well recognized that AV systems, across all levels of automation, will provide significant opportunities for improving safety, efficiency, and mobility; and with the increase in highway fatalities, it is important, now more than ever, that the policy environment continues to support the safe testing and deployment of innovative technology.

In addition to removing this barrier to innovation, New York can continue to play a leadership role in promoting AV technology by (a) convening key stakeholders and innovators to leverage resources and share best practices, and (b) collaborating with neighboring states to support regional efforts to advance automated vehicle technology while at the same time ensuring a national framework for automated vehicle policy.

Please let us know if we can provide additional information or answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Josh Fisher
Manager
State Government Affairs