

February 14, 2017

Congressman Bob Latta
Chairman
Subcommittee on Digital Commerce
and Consumer Protection
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Janice Schakowsky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Digital Commerce
and Consumer Protection
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Latta and Ranking Member Schakowsky:

The Auto Care Association, representing the nearly 500,000 business locations that make-up the \$356.5 billion independent vehicle maintenance and repair industry, thanks the House Energy & Commerce subcommittee on Digital Commerce & Consumer Protection, for holding their hearing on the deployment of self-driving cars. As the vehicle technology advances, consumers are continually more exposed to the issues of vehicle data ownership as well as cybersecurity threats. The auto care industry believes there is much more that can be done to protect car owner privacy and safety as vehicles become more connected and are equipped with autonomous and semi-autonomous features.

Vehicle owners are still vastly unaware of the amount of information being transmitted by their vehicles. Much of this data is being collected without the vehicle owner being able to control what is collected, by whom, and for what purpose. Recent Auto Care research shows that 81% of vehicle owners believe that they should decide who has access to this data. Additionally, 7 out of 10 believe the data being transmitted to the vehicle manufacturer is a problem and demand a change.

The auto care industry believes innovations on behalf of driver safety are an important step forward toward minimizing injuries and fatalities sustained in vehicle crashes. The technology systems in vehicles and those that connect to these systems - including auto care industry solutions – should all be inclusive of a secure vehicle interface compliant protocol that minimizes cybersecurity threats while providing the vehicle owner with the ability to control whether and to whom data transmitted by their vehicle is sent.

With this in mind, we urge the subcommittee to explore solutions for protecting vehicle owner data, minimizing cybersecurity threats on vehicle systems, and providing full control to the consumer over the data sent by their vehicle.

Thank you again for holding the hearing on self-driving cars and we look forward to working with the members of the subcommittee to protect consumers and their vehicle data.

Sincerely,



Aaron Lowe
Senior Vice President, Government and Regulatory Affairs