

March 16, 2017

The Honorable Robert Latta, Chairman
Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Janice Schakowsky, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Latta and Ranking Member Schakowsky,

Thank you for this opportunity to share Honda North America, Inc.'s (Honda) views on the Disrupter Series: Smart Communities hearing. As a supporter of and partner with the City of Columbus in their Smart Columbus project, Honda is pleased that the Subcommittee convened this hearing to showcase all that Columbus and cities across the country are doing to incorporate innovative technology to increase safety, mobility, and efficiency of services for their residents.

Honda has been investing and manufacturing in the U.S. for more than 40 years. This includes \$27 billion in purchases of parts and materials from 610 U.S. suppliers in 2016. Honda has made capital investments of \$3 billion in its U.S. factories over the past four years alone, and more than \$17 billion since we began operations in the U.S. Our 12 manufacturing plants produce vehicles, power equipment, and power sports. The U.S. also hosts the global headquarters for HondaJet. Honda directly employs 30,000 Americans and has never laid off a permanent associate.

In Marysville, Ohio, about 30 miles from the City of Columbus, Honda has two manufacturing plants that produce the Honda Accord Sedan and Coupe, the Acura ILX, the Acura TLX, and the Acura NSX, the only supercar manufactured in the U.S. Marysville is also home to Honda's U.S. manufacturing and research and development headquarters.

Honda shares the City of Columbus' vision for the Smart Columbus project to "implement a holistic vision for how technology can help all residents move more easily and to access opportunity."¹ As Honda strives "to be a company that society wants to exist," we intend to support Columbus' vision by deploying technologies that enhance mobility and road user safety.

Honda plans to work with the City of Columbus on issues related to data integration, autonomous vehicles, connected vehicles, and implementing advanced sensors and cameras at intersections. Honda also intends to make electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles available for the city. The vehicles would include the Fit EV and the Clarity Plug-In Hybrid which is scheduled to be released later this year. Honda

¹ *Smart Columbus*, City of Columbus website (March 14, 2017), <https://www.columbus.gov/smartcolumbus/>

also plans to advise the City of Columbus on electric vehicle charging requirements and the application of vehicle charging and electric utility and renewable generator coordination (Vehicle/Grid Integration).

In addition to working within the City of Columbus, Honda will also launch a comprehensive effort along State Route 33 between Columbus and East Liberty to study traffic congestion mitigation and improve safety for all road users. This route would provide the opportunity to effectively analyze vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communications technologies.

Honda looks forward to working with the Subcommittee to ensure that these projects enjoy a smooth process to completion, and consumers enjoy the full potential of these life-saving technologies.