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The Honorable Robert Latta
Chairman
Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Janice Schakowsky
Ranking Member
Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Latta and Ranking Member Schakowsky:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce applauds the Subcommittee for today's hearing dealing with the critical issue of emerging tech's impact on retail operations and logistics.

The Chamber created the Technology Engagement Center (C_TEC) to promote the role of technology in the economy and to advocate for rational policies that drive economic growth, spur innovation, and create jobs. C_TEC convenes working groups focused on autonomous vehicles ("AVs") and unmanned aerial systems ("UAS").

C_TEC believes that autonomy in both surface and aerial logistics will be necessary to ensure America leads in digital commerce. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, it is estimated that in the United States, total e-commerce sales amounted to \$453.5 billion, which was a 16 percent increase from the year before.¹

Trucking is one of the current major forms of transportation to ensure fulfillment of e-commerce purchases. Unfortunately, the nation is experiencing a shortage of truck drivers.² One of the many solutions to this shortage will be autonomy. Fortunately, testing has shown that autonomous commercial trucking is viable as demonstrated by Embark which recently conducted a test of an autonomous truck on a 2,400-mile trip from California to Florida.³

¹ U.S. Census Bureau News, "Quarterly Retail E-Commerce Sales 4th Quarter 2017," (Feb. 16, 2018) *available at* https://www.census.gov/retail/mrts/www/data/pdf/ec_current.pdf.

² Samantha Raphelson, "Trucking Industry Struggles With Growing Driver Shortage," National Public Radio (Jan. 9, 2017) *available at* <https://www.npr.org/2018/01/09/576752327/trucking-industry-struggles-with-growing-driver-shortage>.

³ Darrell Etherington, "Embark's self-driving truck completes 2,400 mile cross-U.S. trip," Tech Crunch (Feb. 6, 2018) *available at* <https://beta.techcrunch.com/2018/02/06/embarcs-self-driving-truck-drove-2400-miles-across-the-u-s/>.

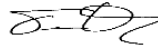
In order for autonomous truck use to become ubiquitous, it will require that regulatory certainty exists for this new technology. Unfortunately, there exists a patchwork of 50-state safety regimes for autonomous vehicles, which has the effect of hindering nationwide deployment of AVs.

Industries operating in the UAS space have to deal with this same patchwork of safety regimes. To combat this, many of America's technology leaders are testing, and in some cases, commercially operating UAS overseas. To ensure the U.S. remains a leader in AV and UAS innovation, it is important to create a favorable regulatory environment that attracts industry.

The Chamber applauds this Subcommittee's leadership on H.R. 3388, the SELF-DRIVE Act, which passed the full House. While this bill goes a great way in creating the right regulatory environment for passenger vehicles, it is C_TEC's hope that Congress will also work to find the right federal framework and a national standard for autonomous commercial vehicles and UAS.

We applaud the work of this Subcommittee on emerging tech and hope to work with you to ensure that they enable American businesses to lead the way in e-commerce.

Sincerely,



Tim Day
Senior Vice President
C_TEC U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Members of the Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection