

**Opening Statement of Representative Bob Latta
As Prepared for Delivery
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce
Hearing entitled “Self-Driving Vehicle Legislative Framework: Enhancing
Safety, Improving Lives and Mobility, and Beating China”
July 26, 2023**

American automotive leadership is vital for the future of our national security. But autonomous vehicles aren't just the future – they are the present – and the harsh reality is the United States is already falling behind on the global stage.

Communist China poses an immediate risk to our national security through their use of driver-less cars within our very borders. As Chair of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, I am all too familiar with our ongoing efforts to rip-and-replace Communist Chinese technology from our communications infrastructure. If we do not ensure our laws support innovation, the United States will be forced to consider how to secure our roadways after Communist China has already collected massive amounts of data on our transportation systems.

We have the privilege on the Energy and Commerce Committee to look over the horizon to enact laws and regulations that pave the way for American innovation and global leadership.

In the 115th Congress, I felt strongly that AV technology and an AV federal framework were the next frontier for legislative action within this Committee. Although I have remained focused on meaningful legislative action over the last six years, I have been disappointed in the lack of bipartisan action on AVs.

Finding a solution is essential.

Over the last several months, I have been working closely with my friend across the aisle, the gentlelady from Michigan's sixth district, to craft that solution through a federal legislative framework. I am committed to continuing those conversations and drafting a bill that supports the safe development and deployment of fully autonomous technology.

The time to act is now.

With a federal roadmap for autonomous vehicle deployment, we as Americans **all win**. We simply cannot sit back and watch other countries, especially our adversaries, lead because we can't work together to come to an agreement.

I am pleased we are furthering this discussion in today's hearing, and I look forward to hearing from our witnesses.

I yield back.