

Chairman Brett Guthrie
Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Commerce,
Manufacturing, and Trade
“Looking Under the Hood: The State of NHTSA and Motor
Vehicle Safety”
June 26, 2025

As prepared for delivery

Thank you, Vice Chairman Fulcher.

Good morning, and thank you to our witnesses for providing your insights today on motor vehicle safety. This hearing provides an important opportunity for this subcommittee to better understand the current state of vehicle safety, emerging trends, and the critical role of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The Committee on Energy and Commerce has long played a leading role in shaping automotive policy, with safety at the core of that work. As Vice Chairman Fulcher noted, today's hearing marks the beginning of a thoughtful, bipartisan process to develop a motor vehicle safety title as part of broader surface transportation reauthorization efforts.

I understand the important role the auto industry plays in American manufacturing and competitiveness. My district is home to many automotive component parts manufacturers which create thousands of jobs. It is important to ensure motor vehicles, and their components, meet the highest safety standards to protect the public and support the millions of workers who build and maintain the vehicles on our roads.

Together, our committee will develop smart, safety-first policies that modernize regulations to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century.

This is also a moment to lead globally in emerging technologies, particularly in artificial intelligence. Autonomous vehicles provide an important real-world application of AI technologies and demonstrate the substantial benefits AI can provide to the public through significant economic and social advancement. Whether through reduced traffic fatalities or supporting those facing mobility challenges, AVs can offer opportunity and independence to millions of Americans.

Further, our work on AVs demonstrates how Congress, through existing regulatory frameworks, can appropriately regulate sector-specific AI applications.

Thank you to Vice Chairman Fulcher for leading this hearing and I look forward to working with Ranking Member Pallone and all of our colleagues on motor vehicle safety and NHTSA issues this Congress.

I yield back.