

Questions of the Honorable Debbie Dingell
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

HEARING

Promises and Perils: The Potential of Automobile Technologies

May 18, 2021

OPENING STATEMENT (2 Minutes)

Thank you for yielding, Chair Schakowsky.

Two of the major automotive safety challenges before this Committee are autonomous vehicles (AVs) and curbing drunk driving.

Chair Schakowsky, I commend your leadership, and I am grateful to partner with you on important legislation to ensure the United States remains the global automotive leader on AV technology that will both keep us on the forefront of innovation and safety. But as we make this transformational shift, we also need to ensure the workforce concerns are thoughtfully addressed.

The Energy and Commerce Committee has done some good bipartisan work in the past, but it was frustrating we were not able to advance a bill in the 116th Congress. To my colleagues: we must redouble our efforts in the long bipartisan tradition of this Committee and finally move meaningful AV legislation to the President's desk.

Here is the hard truth: AVs are here and every day we do not have a federal framework in place for the safe deployment of AVs we risk falling behind the rest of the world.

Now is the time for us to roll up our sleeves, come together, and work in good faith to find a common path forward. We must not fear compromise.

To our witness here today and all the stakeholders we are engaged with, I urge you all to work constructively with this Committee with the urgency that this issue demands.

We have a real opportunity to advance AV legislation this year. Let's seize it.

In addition to AV legislation, Congress must address the number one cause of death on America's roadways: drunk driving. I have authored the bipartisan HALT Drunk Driving Act to do just this, as well as honor the Abbas family from my district who died tragically at the hands of a drunk driver.

I look forward to hearing the testimony from each of the witnesses today.

Thank you, and I yield back the balance of my time.