

Committee on Energy and Commerce

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
Of**

Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce Member Debbie Dingell

Innovation, Data, and Commerce Subcommittee Hearing on “Self-Driving Vehicle Legislative Framework: Enhancing Safety, Improving Lives and Mobility, and Beating China.”

July 26, 2023

Thank you, Ranking Member Pallone.

Michigan put the world on wheels and is the global center of automotive manufacturing and innovation. We must keep it this way. And, today, Michigan is the tip of the spear for the autonomous vehicle (AV) revolution—from technological development to manufacturing. I firmly believe in the promise of AV technology: improved safety, expanded mobility, and greater economic prosperity. But if the United States is going to stay at the forefront, Congress must pass a comprehensive bipartisan federal AV framework that supports the safe, responsible deployment of AVs.

That’s why I locked arms with my good friend, Representative Bob Latta, and co-led the SELF DRIVE Act, which passed the House in the 115th Congress. And, that’s why I have continued to work on bipartisan, bicameral efforts to revive AV legislation ever since. Despite our best efforts, comprehensive AV legislation has not been enacted. Concerns persist. Additionally, I am concerned that China and other countries are taking advantage of our inaction.

At today’s hearing, we will hear from witnesses about draft legislation that I’ve been working on for more than a year. Legislation that I believe can break the logjam. It represents a vision that can address the issues that have emerged over the last six years since we passed the SELF DRIVE Act. And, over the course of the last year, I’ve been in meaningful and productive conversations with Representative Latta on that legislation.

I thank Chair Rodgers and the majority staff for holding this legislative hearing today and including my discussion draft. Between the two draft bills we are considering, I see a real path forward on achieving bipartisan AV legislation. Listen, I fully acknowledge that my draft legislation isn’t perfect. I want to work with all members and stakeholders. I want your honest feedback. I want to know what you like, what you don’t like, what’s missing, and what should be struck.

I’m not afraid of having difficult conversations—it’s how we reach compromise. Compromise must never be a dirty word. And I recognize [and agree with my republican colleagues] that partisan AV legislation poses just as grave a threat as no AV legislation. Messaging bills will not cut it. We need to come together and that is one of this Committee’s greatest strengths.

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Let me be clear, I am committed to continue working with Representative Latta and all members of this Committee in good faith on drafting bipartisan AV legislation that embodies our shared values.

Thank you for the time, Ranking Member Pallone. I yield back.