



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TALENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
LANSING

STEVE ARWOOD
DIRECTOR

August 30, 2016

Dear partners in the Senate,

Michigan is proud of its automotive heritage. We are, undeniably, the global leader in automotive. But cannot rest on those laurels as we face what I believe to be the greatest disruption to the industry in our lifetimes.

Connected and automated vehicles are our future -- and not necessarily the distant future. In many ways, the future is now. We're already seeing some aspects of these technologies showing up in showrooms. The pace will only accelerate, and Michigan must continue to be aggressively proactive. We know that Silicon Valley is considered by many to be the epicenter of all things related to technology. California-based companies already are working on vehicle connectivity.

But so is Michigan. And, in many ways, we are better suited for this work. We have the four-season climate necessary to test connected and automated vehicles in all types of weather. We also have the Mcity, a public-private partnership that already is the site of significant work in this area. And we have American Center for Mobility at Willow Run. Located on the site of the historic Arsenal of Democracy, ACM is another public-private partnership and is in the early stages of being converted to the best and largest testing and demonstration site for connected and automated vehicles.

But our biggest asset is the brainpower and leadership already in our state. With 75 percent of the world's automotive research and development located in Michigan, we know that no one is better at designing and building vehicles.

There is more we must do, and we need the help of our partners in the Legislature. The bills before you will take a major step in the right direction by keeping Michigan's regulatory environment at the forefront of this new technology and allowing our automotive visionaries and skilled builders to develop the mobility solutions of the future right here in Michigan.

We know the importance of the automotive industry to Michigan's economy, which has made tremendous progress in recent years. We want Michigan to be the global leader in automotive for generations to come. For that to happen, we must embrace these rapidly advancing technological changes and commit to being the state that people around the world will look toward for innovation and production.

Sincerely,

Steve Arwood
Director