

**Testimony
of
Luis Canales, Executive Director Corporate Affairs, Nexteer Automotive
to
Michigan Senate Committee on Economic Development and International
Investment
August 31, 2016**

Good morning Chairman Horn, minority Vice Chair Warren and members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and International Investment.

My name is Luis Canales, Executive Director of Corporate Affairs at Nexteer.

Nexteer is a leader in intuitive motion control with a core business focus on steering and driveline systems that include advanced driver assist systems (ADAS) and autonomous vehicle technologies for the automotive industry. We employ over 13,000 people globally in 12 countries and 21 manufacturing locations, serving over 50 original equipment manufacturers.

With a global focus, Nexteer is proud of our Michigan roots. We have the distinction of being the only Tier 1 global steering supplier based in the United States, with our global headquarters in Auburn Hills, Michigan. Today we employ over 5,000 people in this great state, a large majority of them at this site in the Great Lakes Bay Region that is the home to our Global Technical Center and North America Division Administrative Offices.

Over the past five years, Nexteer has created more than 2,000 Michigan jobs and has invested nearly \$500 million in productive equipment in our state. Of that, \$70 million was invested just last year. This investment and job creation has been driven primarily by our Advanced Driver Assistance content in Electric Power Steering, or EPS, that has been developed by the nearly 1000 Michigan based engineers working at this facility. You see... with its brains, sensors, and muscle... EPS is a foundational technology that steers the future of Autonomous Vehicles, with or without a human at the wheel.

The legislation you are considering today will lay down a framework for Autonomous Vehicles that will enable industry participants, like Nexteer, to accelerate product development and time to market right here in our State of Michigan. Innovation is the core of our business and a necessary ingredient for continued growth.

Like you, we are dedicated to Michigan, our automotive industry and the technical advances that lie before us.

We applaud the committee for its deliberations on today's important legislation and support you in its passage.

Through your legislative actions, you are driving Michigan's automotive industry forward to a new level of safety, economy and driver experience... We are proud to stand with you.

Thank you.