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Date: June 19, 2012

To: The Honorable Bonnie Lowenthal, Chair
The Honorable Kevin Jeffries, Vice Chair
Members, Assembly Transportation Committee

From: Rex D. Frazier, President
Michael A. Gunning, Vice President
Kimberley Dellinger Dunn, General Counsel
Manolo P. Platin, Legislative Advocate

Re: SB 1298 (Padilla) Autonomous vehicles: safety and performance requirements
As proposed to be amended

Assembly Transportation Committee Hearing: June 25th, 2012
PIFC Position: Support

The Personal Insurance Federation of California, representing six of the nation's largest insurance companies (State Farm, Farmers, Liberty Mutual Group, Progressive, Allstate and Mercury) who collectively write a majority of the personal line auto and home insurance in California **supports SB 1298 Autonomous vehicles: safety and performance requirements by Senator Padilla.**

SB 1298 would set into motion a path for the testing and eventual operation of autonomous vehicles in California. We believe that the autonomous vehicle technology currently under development holds great promise to improve auto and highway safety, especially considering that human error is a factor in 90-95% of crashes today. This bill's enactment has the potential to significantly reduce roadway injuries and deaths, and for that reason, PIFC is in support.

Notably, the proposed amendments would require that autonomous vehicles be equipped with a device that would ensure critical information is available following a collision. As vehicles become increasingly autonomous, drivers will not be continuously monitoring operations and will not always know exactly what happened after an accident. By requiring that autonomous vehicles capture and retain data about the incident, it will ensure that all parties are aware of important facts in determining liability.

We are excited and supportive of autonomous vehicle technology that enhances auto and highway safety, and we urge policy makers to ensure this technology is fostered and introduced to the public in a way that ensures safety, establishes performance standards and requirements, and protects drivers and passengers on California roadways.

For the reasons stated above PIFC **supports SB 1298 Autonomous vehicles: safety and performance requirements by Senator Padilla and urges your "aye" vote.** If you have any questions regarding PIFC's position, please contact Manolo Platin at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Senator Alex Padilla, Author
Howard Posner, Assembly Transportation Committee
Gregson Porteous, Assembly Republican Caucus
Gareth Elliot, Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor