

Date July 9th, 2019

To: The Honorable Miguel Santiago, Chair
The Honorable Jay Obernolte, Vice Chair
Members, Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee

From: Rex D. Frazier, President
Seren Taylor, Senior Legislative Advocate

Re: SB 59 (Allen) Autonomous Vehicle Technology: Statewide Policy

PIFC Position: Support



STATE FARM

LIBERTY MUTUAL
INSURANCE

PROGRESSIVE

MERCURY

NATIONWIDE

NAMIC

The Personal Insurance Federation of California (PIFC) is a statewide trade association that represents five of the nation's largest insurance companies (State Farm, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Progressive, Mercury, and Nationwide as well as associate member NAMIC) who write personal line auto and home insurance in California. PIFC is pleased to support SB 59 as amended on July 3rd, 2019.

SB 59 requires the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to convene an autonomous vehicle (AV) interagency working group to guide policy development for autonomous passenger vehicles. The working group includes representatives from various state departments, agencies, the technology industry, safety groups, environmental organizations, disability rights groups, the insurance industry, as well as other important stakeholders.

We respect the expertise of the state entities included in the working group, and commend the author for also including representatives from outside state government on such an important and far-reaching effort. The knowledge and experience provided by insurers and other key stakeholders will help the interagency working group make better-informed decisions on autonomous vehicle technology, which will benefit every Californian.

Insurers have a long history of advocating for the improvement of auto and highway safety for the benefit of the general public. Insurers have been a key stakeholder and thought leader on autonomous vehicle issues nationally and in conjunction with the development of the California Department of Motor Vehicle's regulations on autonomous vehicles.

The insurance industry is committed to new and innovative technologies while recognizing the potential for autonomous technology to improve safety. Insurance is the means for spreading risk of innovation while also sending important safety signals to the public. As these issues develop and take shape, we are grateful that insurers have a seat at the table to ensure that any policy decisions take into account necessary safety and financial responsibility considerations in this evolving mode of transportation.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Seren Taylor at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Senator Ben Allen, Author
Edmond Cheung, Chief Consultant, Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee
Daniel Ballon, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor