

Date June 24th, 2019

To: The Honorable Jim Frazier, Chair
The Honorable Vince Fong, Vice Chair
Members, Assembly Transportation Committee

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

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



STATE FARM

LIBERTY MUTUAL
INSURANCE

PROGRESSIVE

MERCURY

NATIONWIDE

NAMIC

PIFC Position: Support if Amended

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.

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 and agencies including: the State Transportation Agency, Department of Motor Vehicles, Caltrans, and the State Air Resources Board, among others.

While we appreciate the expertise of the state entities included in the working group, we believe that such an important and far-reaching effort should include representatives from outside of state government as well.

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.

Therefore, we believe this bill should include amendments to add representatives from the insurance industry, and other non-governmental entities with appropriate expertise, to the workgroup. The additional knowledge and experience provided by insurers will help the interagency working group make better-informed decisions on autonomous vehicle technology, which will benefit every Californian.

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, it is essential 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.

The goal of this bill is laudable; however, **we respectfully request that you amend the bill to add representatives from the insurance industry, and other non-governmental entities with appropriate expertise to the workgroup.** We appreciate your consideration of the above issues and we look forward to working with you on this legislation. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Seren Taylor at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Senator Ben Allen, Author
Eric Thronson, Chief Consultant, Assembly Transportation Committee
Daniel Ballon, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor