

**NetChoice** *Promoting free speech & free enterprise on the net*



Carl Szabo, Vice President and General Counsel  
1401 K St NW, Suite 502  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-420-7485  
[www.netchoice.org](http://www.netchoice.org)

March 18, 2021

**RE: Adding the Self-Driving Language in the Governor's budget to your budget**

We ask that you add the autonomous driving language in the Governor's proposed language in the TED budget bill, part GG (AB 3008-A / SB 2508-A) to the final budget. This is essential to help develop life-saving and life-enabling technologies that New York citizens want.

This has been in effect since 2017 and was renewed in 2019.

Despite COVID lockdowns, the fatality rate in 2020 jumped 24% per 100 million miles driven<sup>1</sup> – representing the largest annual percentage increase since the council began collecting data. 43,945 people were killed in car crashes and 4.8 million injured. This is all while people are traveling less and cars have never been safer.

The reality is that over 94% of all auto-fatalities are caused by human error.<sup>2</sup> If self-driving cars can prevent even half of those human operator fatalities, that would have saved 20,000 American lives.

Fortunately, today New York allows self-driving car businesses to test and innovate on their existing technologies. This empowers self-driving businesses to move closer to the dream that anyone, whether visually or physically limited, elderly, or otherwise can get where they need to go when they need to get there. And at the same time mitigating the thousands of American deaths and injuries caused by human driving error.

Self-driving businesses have driven over 6,000,000 miles on real-world roads with only a handful of small accidents. In fact, self-driving cars are much more likely to be hit by human drivers than the other way around.

For these important reasons, **we ask that you add the language from the TEDEC Part GG in your budget resolutions, and also in the final budget.**

Sincerely,

Carl Szabo  
Vice President and General Counsel, NetChoice

*NetChoice works to make the Internet safe for free enterprise and free expression. [www.netchoice.org](http://www.netchoice.org)*

---

<sup>1</sup> Associated Press, *Traffic deaths rose 8% in 2020, even as Americans drove fewer miles during pandemic*, USA Today, Mar. 5 2021.

<sup>2</sup> NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis, *Critical Reasons for Crashes Investigated in the National Motor Vehicle Crash Causation Survey* (Feb. 2015).