



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

DEC 18 2015

Mr. John M. Simpson
Consumer Watchdog
2701 Ocean Park Boulevard, Suite 112
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Dear Mr. Simpson:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Foxx and National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator Rosekind urging the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to put safety first as the Agency plans to update its May 2013 policy paper on automated vehicles. Your letter was forwarded to the Office of Vehicle Safety Research, which is focused on researching advanced technologies, such as fully autonomous automobiles.

Since NHTSA issued that statement we have witnessed continued technological progress at all levels of vehicle technologies. Various automakers and technology companies continue to announce their intentions to bring to market different combinations of automated vehicles. We are encouraged by the potential of these vehicles to dramatically improve safety. In addition, we also want to support the safe deployment of these vehicles as well.

Your cautionary remarks are well taken. Safety is and will be NHTSA's top priority. If I can provide further assistance, please feel free to contact me or Dr. Cem Hatipoglu of my staff at (202) 366-4862.

Sincerely yours,

Nathaniel Beuse
Associate Administrator
Vehicle Safety Research