



August 3, 2023

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

Too many people are dying on California's roads – 4,407 last year alone. Motor vehicle crashes occur every day, causing deaths and injuries, costing millions in property damage, and shattering lives forever. Fortunately, California companies are employing advanced technology to finally address the root cause of crashes, like distracted and reckless driving, and deliver incredible safety benefits. Thanks to your Administration's work to develop frameworks for autonomous vehicle (AV) testing and deployment in the state, AVs stand to significantly improve safety on California roads. Sadly, some in the California Legislature are playing politics with safety by promoting AB 316, which would undermine your Administration's expertise in administering safety regulations.

As you know, autonomous trucks are not currently permitted to operate on California's roads. Your Administration has engaged in strong oversight and a thoughtful regulatory process to consider allowing AVs trucks in the Golden State. This process has been led by expert regulators at the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) that have deployed a deliberate process of bringing together all stakeholders in two public workshops to inform the framework for autonomous trucks. CHP and DMV have issued no draft regulations yet, and the regulations will take time to implement. Until a regulatory regime is established, autonomous trucks remain unable to operate on California roads.

Despite this state of play, some lawmakers are playing politics with public safety by promoting AB 316, which would insert the Legislature into safety regulators' role and thwart the thoughtful process of your Administration. Supporters of AB 316 are bowing to pressure from special interest groups to effectively ban autonomous trucks in California, contravening your Administration's strict and steady oversight of this life-saving innovation.

AB 316 is not just premature and unnecessary, but dangerous. The autonomous vehicle industry has offered reasonable compromises that have been rejected at every turn. This reckless action by some in the Legislature will cement California's unacceptable safety status quo – thousands of fatalities each year. AV technology offers a safer tomorrow for Californians, but some in the Legislature are intent on killing that California-developed innovation today.

California has a long and proud tradition as a leader in transportation innovation, from electric cars to the first ride hail apps. Autonomous vehicles across all vehicle modes represent the future of transportation.

California is positioned to lead the way if it safely and responsibly regulates autonomous trucks under the leadership of your Administration. States across the country are racing to embrace autonomous trucks to ease supply chain challenges, address safety, and create American jobs. In fact, a U.S. Department of Transportation-funded study found that autonomous trucking will spur \$111 billion in aggregate investment spending across the U.S. economy and increase total U.S. employment by 26,400 to 35,100 jobs per year on average. If AB 316 is enacted, other states will receive this benefit and capitalize on California's mistake.

Enactment of AB 316 would be a short-term political win for some special interests, while casting a long-term chill on a promising industry that will deliver safer roads for Californians. Therefore, we urge you to communicate to the Legislature that you intend to veto AB 316 unless meaningful changes are made to the bill. We are sure you will agree that California should not play politics with safety and that expert regulators in your administration should be allowed to do their jobs.

Respectfully,



Jeff Farrah
Autonomous Vehicle Industry Association



Ariel Wolf
California Alliance for Freight Innovation