



STATEMENT OF THE

AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR VEHICLE OWNERS' RIGHTS

BEFORE THE

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE'S

HEARING ON

"THE ROAD AHEAD FOR AUTOMATED VEHICLES"

FEBRUARY 2, 2022

The undersigned organizations and companies of the American Alliance for Vehicle Owners' Rights ("AAVOR") respectfully submit this statement to the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and ask that it be made part of the official hearing record for the February 2, 2022 hearing entitled "The Road Ahead for Automated Vehicles."

Background on AAVOR

AAVOR is a diverse group of stakeholders united by the common goal of guaranteeing the right of all vehicle owners and users to have access to, and control of, the data generated by their vehicles. AAVOR's members represent interests from across the mobility ecosystem, including consumer advocates, fleet owners and operators, shared mobility service providers, automotive repairers, insurers, automotive recyclers, and telematics providers.

Connection Between Vehicle Data Access and Autonomous Vehicles

The policy issue of the control – or "ownership" – of, and access to, the data generated by a motor vehicle – whether a car or a truck – by the owner of that motor vehicle is not solely an autonomous vehicle (AV) issue. It applies to the motor vehicles on the road today as well as

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those that will be deployed in the coming decades. From AAVOR's point of view, getting a vehicle data access bill done and reaffirming the rights of vehicle owners to control vehicle generated data is a goal the members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee – and the entire Congress – should embrace. Whether vehicle data access for vehicle owners and those who have the owners' permission to access that data is addressed through AV legislation or another legislative vehicle is less important than achieving the goal of enactment of such an important new law.

The “Road Ahead” for Vehicle Data Access

Vehicle generated data is the new frontier for the development of the future of mobility. Today's connected vehicles (cars, trucks and buses) offer consumers innovative new services, and bring significant downstream business development potential for all stakeholders in the on-road transportation sector, including, but not limited to, navigation (real-time localization/traffic information), infotainment (access to online movies/music), maintenance (fleet management/remote diagnostics/vehicle recovery), insurance (pay-as-you-drive/claim investigation), traffic efficiency (reduced congestion), sustainability (reduced fuel consumption), and safety.

However, this requires the right legal framework, which enables all stakeholders to access data generated by vehicles, starting with individual consumers and fleet owners, and extending through Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), parts suppliers, vehicle repairers, and the other many players across the entire transportation sector. This vehicle-generated data is related to nearly every aspect of the vehicle's operation and has been historically accessed through a physical “on-board diagnostics” (*e.g.*, OBD-II in passenger cars) port. A growing number of vehicles are transitioning to wireless access, bypassing the in-cabin, wired-access port and restricting access to vehicle-generated data by vehicle owners and third parties.

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Vehicle-generated data – whether accessed through a wired port or wirelessly -- already provides many benefits to both consumers who own individual cars and companies that own dozens or thousands of vehicles. But these benefits will only be realized if vehicle owners: (1) retain the ability to securely access and control the data their vehicles (and equipment attached to their vehicles) generate, collect and store; (2) without artificial barriers that reduce consumer choice or competition; (3) in real-time through secure, technology-neutral, standards-based, in-vehicle access; and, (4) without obtaining consent from an entity that does not own or lease the vehicle.

AAVOR is convinced that Congress must take a lead role in guaranteeing vehicle owners and lessees access to and control of all data generated, collected and stored by vehicles. AAVOR supports enactment of federal policies that safeguard the rights of vehicle owners to:

- securely access and control their vehicle data (including authorizing access by third parties);
- directly, through in-vehicle access, in real-time;
- through a technology-neutral, standards-based, secured interface;
- that provides interoperable and bi-directional communication with the vehicle.

The rights of vehicle owners to control and access the data generated by their vehicles is too important to be left unaddressed by federal legislation. AAVOR supports federal efforts to establish a framework for securing the continued rights of vehicle owners – and entities that secure the express permission of vehicle owners -- to control and access vehicle-generated data on a real-time, secure and competitive basis.

AAVOR appreciates the opportunity to submit this statement to the Committee today and looks forward to working with its leadership and members to secure enactment of federal vehicle data access legislation in the near future. If you have questions about AAVOR's views on the issues covered in these comments or other policy matters related to vehicle data

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access, competition, consumer protection or privacy, please do not hesitate to contact Greg Scott at 202-297-5123 or at gscott@aavor.org.

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Geotab, Inc.

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