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INNOVATION ECONOMY

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February 25, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
251 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 1256 (Ziegler) - Vehicle Laws - Fully Autonomous Vehicles – Favorable

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of TechNet, I'm writing to share our support of HB 1256 on fully autonomous vehicles.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.5 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance. TechNet has offices in Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Harrisburg, Olympia, Sacramento, Silicon Valley, Tallahassee, and Washington, D.C.

Autonomous vehicles (AVs) enable tremendous societal benefits by improving road safety, increasing access to transportation for all, enhancing efficiency of goods movement, creating jobs, helping to reduce congestion, and meeting consumer demand, while promoting innovation and growth across various sectors of the economy. Accordingly, TechNet supports policies that encourage the safe and efficient deployment of AVs on public roads in the United States. States should avoid adopting policies that will create, increase, or maintain barriers to the testing, development, and deployment of this technology and the benefits that come with it.

TechNet supports HB 1256 as the bill aligns with the 25 other states that have passed authorizing AV language. We support and prioritize harmonization of laws between jurisdictions to avoid a patchwork of policies that may stifle or impede innovation. We believe that this bill promotes policies that lead to a clear pathway for driverless commercial operations. Additionally, this bill is a business-friendly model and technology-neutral. HB 1256 will foster continued innovation in the

industry in Marland, avoid picking winners and losers, prioritize public safety, and protect intellectual property.

TechNet views AVs and related technology as job creators, with the AV industry playing a critical role in enhancing state and local economies, economic competitiveness, and opportunity overall. Thank you for your work on this important issue and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Margaret Durkin

Margaret Durkin
TechNet Executive Director, Pennsylvania & the Mid-Atlantic