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## Testimony before the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee In support of SB909: Autonomous Vehicle Authorization Legislation

March 4, 2026

Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon. My name is Anthony Perez and I serve as the Northeast Policy Manager for Waymo. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 909.

What began in 2009 as a Google moonshot is now a safer and more accessible transportation option for millions of Americans. Today, Waymo operates a 24/7, fully autonomous ride-hailing service in major metro areas including Phoenix, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Austin, Atlanta, and Miami. Last week, we launched in Orlando, Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio, and announced our intention to serve Charlotte and Chicago. We are investing in several more communities across the U.S., including Baltimore, where we hope to serve the public in the near future. We're proud of the support we've received to date from Governors, city, and state officials across the country.

Every week, Waymo provides more than 400,000 rides, and last year, our lifetime total exceeded 20 million rides. As of this year, our automated driving technology, which we call the Waymo Driver, has traveled nearly 200 million miles on public roads without a human behind the wheel. .

Safety is core to our mission to be the world's most trusted driver. There is a persistent road safety crisis that claims 40,000 lives annually in the U.S., but we believe our technology can help make roads safer by eliminating human errors—like impairment, distraction, and speeding—that contribute to the vast majority of these preventable deaths.

Our peer-reviewed analysis of our driving data shows this is working. Based on 127 million fully autonomous miles, the data shows Waymo vehicles are involved in 90% fewer serious injury or worse crashes, and 92% fewer injury crashes involving pedestrians compared to human drivers where we operate.

Our technology is also delivering new opportunities for those who face transportation barriers. For those who are blind or low-vision, neurodivergent, elderly, epileptic or otherwise cannot drive themselves, Waymo provides a reliable, independent mobility experience. We have partnered with community groups across the country representing many Americans with different needs to build a more inclusive product. We're proud of the efforts we've made



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alongside the Waymo Accessibility Network and hope to build many new relationships with new partners in Maryland.

As we speak today, thousands of Americans – many of whom cannot drive themselves – will use our service in their daily lives. By passing SB 909, Maryland can lead the way in securing a safer, more accessible, and more competitive future for transportation.

**I urge a favorable report on this bill.**

Thank you