

Dear Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives,

On behalf of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the advocacy and public policy affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, I write in support of House Bill 2398. The legislation amends Title 75 of the Commonwealth's Vehicle Code to allow Highly Automated Vehicles (HAV) to test and eventually deploy in Pennsylvania.

The passage of HB 2398 would create a clear regulatory environment that allows companies to test and deploy driverless technology on public roads. This policy change is needed for the existing autonomous vehicle industry to continue to flourish and grow in southwestern Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania would be the 23<sup>rd</sup> state in the country to pass AV legislation. Regions with the ability to test autonomous vehicles are poised to realize major economic growth as the sector develops into the future of transportation. We are competing with states such as Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan, Texas, and Florida who are already robustly investing in this industry and are creating the regulatory framework to provide certainty and transparency when testing and deploying technologies that were developed here in southwestern Pennsylvania.

The amendment would ensure the safe development of this homegrown industry that is already creating thousands of jobs here in Pennsylvania. According to the [Forefront report](#) published by the Regional Industrial Development Corporation and the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce last year, Pittsburgh ranks seventh in the list of cities with the most autonomous mobility-related companies, holding 3.2% of the market share, and providing 6,300 jobs to the Southwest Pennsylvania region. As the autonomous mobile systems industry grows and matures, it is estimated to reach a \$1 trillion market size.

HB 2398 has bi-partisan support as well as backing from our business community, local government officials, and academia. The extensive government-industry collaboration will continue after the passage of the bill, as the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation will oversee the testing and deployment of driverless technology, policies around insurance, registration, inspection, and meeting federal safety standards.

Providing a roadmap for the testing and eventual deployment of self-driving vehicles is critical to the future of our region's economy. Therefore, we respectfully ask for your support and encourage you to advance House Bill 2398.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Smith".

Matt Smith  
President, Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce