



Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
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May 15, 2019

The Honorable Heidi King  
Deputy Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
West Building  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Docket No. NHTSA-2019-0016

Dear Deputy Administrator King:

I write today on behalf of Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD) to share our support for General Motors' Safety Petition that will help accelerate the development, testing, and deployment of self-driving cars without traditional operational controls. Fully driverless cars hold the promise of eliminating drunk and drugged driving, and MADD is proud to support the work of our partners at GM as they test this lifesaving technology while keeping the public informed of the safety measures taken as we enter this exciting new era.

Self-driving vehicles hold promise across a broad range of societal benefits, the most important of which is safety. Simply put, self-driving cars will reduce car crashes and save lives. Nationwide, more than 37,000 people died in 2017 due to car crashes. More than 90 percent of these traffic crashes are caused by human error or behavior. Self-driving vehicles will save lives by eliminating errors such as distracted, drunk or drowsy driving.

Critically, self-driving cars will also enhance mobility by creating new modes of transportation for Americans who, for various reasons, do not own or operate cars. For people with disabilities and some senior citizens, this will mean greater independence and the ability to travel to a job, run errands, or simply visit a friend or loved one. In communities that lack or are underserved by public transit, self-driving technology can also help spur economic activity.

To truly unlock the benefits of self-driving cars, however, updates to existing vehicle safety standards are needed. Until then, the GM petition represents a watershed moment for U.S. leadership in the development of critical lifesaving technology and the advancement of transportation innovation.

We respectfully urge the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to move forward with GM's petition.

As NHTSA considers this petition and updated guidance and rulemaking for the development, testing, and deployment of self-driving vehicles, we hope you will support innovation, enable the safe development and deployment of this technology across the country and ensure the United States remains a leader in this critical arena.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

J.T. Griffin  
Chief Government Affairs Officer, MADD