

Comment from Robert Hopper

As a professional truck driver I have most days to think of many different topics as the clock winds down and I drive to my next destination.

One of the things I thought about early on in this career was could I put my truck in a ditch to save others' lives. It took deep contemplating and I came to the conclusion that yes, if it comes to a reason I need to put it in the ditch to save others' lives and take my own I will. That school bus full of kids that just blew a tire and I have the split second to put it in the ditch to save them I will do it.

When we talk about automation in trucks, we lose the human thought to save others' lives for the truck is only as smart as the programmer makes it. When it comes time that a school bus is losing control, a camper full of children, that blind man that crosses the street in a red... A computer doesn't have the empathy to see a life or lives about to be changed forever. But a human can, will everyone do it, no. But there are many that will put it in the ditch to save others.

So when I hear this talk of people wanting to lose the human relationship and empathy for others by allowing automation in our trucks and cars it kills me to see what we will lose out here on the highways.