



SILICON VALLEY LEADERSHIP GROUP

August 9, 2022

Ahmad Thomas, CEO

Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Jed York, Chair

San Francisco 49ers

Eric S. Yuan, Vice Chair

Zoom Video Communications

James Gutierrez, Vice Chair

Luva

Victoria Huff Eckert, Treasurer

PwC US

Greg Becker

Silicon Valley Bank

Aart de Geus

Synopsys

Vintage Foster

AMF Media Group

Raquel Gonzalez

Bank of America

Paul A. King

Stanford Children's Health

Ibi Krukrubo

EY

Alan Lowe

Lumentum

Judy C. Miner

Foothill-De Anza Community
College District

Rao Mulpuri

View

Kim Polese

CrowdSmart

Sharon Ryan

Bay Area News Group

Siva Sivaram

Western Digital

Tom Werner

SunPower

2001 Gateway Place, Suite 101E
San Jose, California 95110

(408) 501-7864

svlg.org

Steven Cliff
Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
West Building
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Cliff:

I'm writing on behalf of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to express our support of Docket No. NHTSA-2022-0067, which is General Motors' petition to build and put the Cruise Origin into commercial service. Our organization represents more than 350 Innovation Economy companies, and we work to develop, promote, pass and implement policy initiatives that benefit residents and visitors of the San Francisco Bay Area. Approving this petition will help accelerate the deployment of self-driving cars and the many benefits this technology will bring to our communities.

We believe in the power of autonomous vehicles and the positive impact they have. As an all-electric, self-driving car, the Cruise Origin will advance sustainability, strengthen U.S. leadership in developing and manufacturing autonomous technology and AI, support the American workforce, and promote equitable access to transportation for communities across the country.

As electric and autonomous vehicle technology reaches commercial scale across the United States, it is strategically imperative that America continues to lead in fostering this technology - particularly in light of rising international challengers. China controls nearly [70% of global EV battery manufacturing capacity, while the U.S. controls less than 10%](#) (Securing America's Energy Future, *The Commanding Heights of Global Transportation*, 2020.) This includes 80% ownership of known rare earth metal supplies, critical for the development of EV batteries as well as chips and processors. Development and deployment of the Origin would help bolster American leadership in this emerging tech space.

One of the most critical benefits of self-driving cars is the potential to save lives. Even as overall miles driven fell in 2020 as a result of COVID-related lockdowns, the rate of fatalities per mile skyrocketed - with [2020 having the highest fatality rate \(1.34 deaths per 100 million miles driven\) since 2007](#) (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, *Motor Vehicle Crashes in 2020*, 2022). Self-driving vehicles are a realistic and safe solution to eliminate human error and save lives. The Origin can help advance the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's stated mission to save lives and prevent injuries. We therefore encourage the Agency to favorably grant GM's petition for exemption.



**SILICON VALLEY
LEADERSHIP GROUP**

▼ 2001 Gateway Place, Suite 101E
San Jose, California 95110

☎ (408) 501-7864

🌐 svlg.org

Beyond the importance of safety, the United States risks losing its technological leadership in the autonomous vehicle industry unless it enacts policies to protect its dynamism in the development, manufacture, and deployment of autonomous vehicles against global competitors. Providing automakers like General Motors with the tools they need to safely test and deploy automated vehicles across the nation will create high quality jobs and generate billions of dollars in investment in the United States.

The Origin represents an opportunity to propel the autonomous vehicle industry further, connecting Silicon Valley technology development with industrial heartland expertise as a roadmap for the future of U.S. manufacturing.

I urge the Administration to grant approval for this petition so that General Motors can begin to build and deploy the Cruise Origin to ensure American leadership in manufacturing and emerging technology remains a global force and ultimately serves communities across the country.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Leroe-Muñoz'.

Peter Leroe-Muñoz

General Counsel
Senior Vice President, Tech Policy