



ARIZONA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

August 16, 2022

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

Dear Administrator Cliff:

On behalf of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry (“Arizona Chamber”), I am writing to express our support for the General Motors & Cruise petition, Docket No. NHTSA-2022-0067, to put the Cruise Origin into commercial service. As the collective voice for businesses across the state, the Arizona Chamber is committed to keeping our region competitive in the global economy. A key pillar of our mission includes advocating for policies that drive innovation, promote advancements in technology, and encourage research and development.

We are proud to say that Arizona is one of the fastest-growing technology hubs in the nation, as evidenced by the numerous tech companies that have chosen to call Arizona home in recent years. Our unique value proposition centers around a business-friendly environment and streamlined regulatory system, making it an ideal place for transformative innovation like autonomous vehicle (“AV”) technologies.

In 2015, Governor Doug Ducey signed an executive order supporting the testing and operation of self-driving vehicles. In further demonstration of the state’s dedication as a proving ground, his administration established the Institute for Automated Mobility (“IAM”)—a consortium of global industry leaders, the brightest minds in academia, and a public sector team committed to collaborating on state-of-the-art research, development, testing, and evaluation that advances the safety, science and policy associated with automated driving systems. IAM is creating autonomous transportation solutions that are safe, open to innovation and practical for Arizona and the world.

As our state continues developing its role as a leader in the AV space, we believe it is essential that this technology, and the jobs and economic benefits associated, stay here in the United States. Cruise, in particular, has made a conscious effort to collaborate directly with local governments, starting its dynamic Walmart delivery partnership here in Arizona, demonstrating new purpose and functions to self-driving systems. While the service is currently limited to certain geographic areas, the company plans to extend its deliveries in other Walmart locations in metro-Phoenix. As partnerships like this succeed, growth and job creation for AV companies like Cruise, will continue to generate quality, sustainable jobs throughout the country.

Cruise currently employs more than 2,500 people at various locations throughout the United States dedicated solely to the design, development and testing of the Cruise AV and Origin self-driving software, hardware, firmware, and related technology. If the Cruise and General Motors' petition is approved, thousands of jobs will be created to develop and deploy the Cruise Origin. Beyond the direct manufacturing jobs growth, there will also be thousands of jobs needed to stand up and maintain electrification and charger installation efforts, as well as those to support fleet operations.

A sustainable and efficient transportation network is necessary for a thriving environment, livable communities, enhanced productivity and bustling commerce. On behalf of the Arizona Chamber, I urge the administration to grant approval for this petition so General Motors and Cruise can fully build and deploy the Cruise Origin to work toward a transportation future that serves Arizona's communities as a global, inclusive economic force.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our comments in support of the petition. We welcome the NHTSA to reach out to us if there are any questions regarding this submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danny Seiden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danny Seiden
President & CEO
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry