

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 21, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

As Members of the Ohio Delegation, we write to bring your attention to the competitive application submitted by the Ohio Department of Transportation on behalf of the Transportation Research Center, Inc. (TRC), The Ohio State University, and DriveOhio to the Automated Driving System (ADS) Demonstration Grant program through the Department of Transportation.

We understand that this consortium— in partnership with the University of Cincinnati, the City of Youngstown, and the City of Athens— seeks to develop a statewide demonstration plan to test and deploy ADS technology. This partnership is comprised of leading experts in ADS technology theory, testing, and deployment who seek to improve safety, expand opportunities, and elevate the nation's advancements in autonomous and connected technology.

This plan will leverage Ohio's leadership in connected vehicle environments, ADS technology, and research centers like TRC's SMARTCenter to apply lessons learned from existing ADS deployment efforts to understudied rural, suburban and urban environments as well as highway settings. Through this demonstration plan, the partnership will better integrate these communities into the larger statewide transportation technology ecosystem.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact our offices. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Warren Davidson
Member of Congress



Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



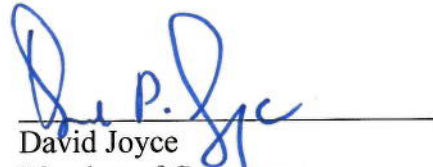
Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



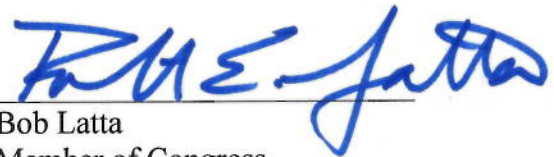
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



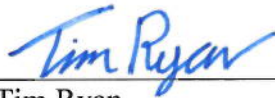
David Joyce
Member of Congress



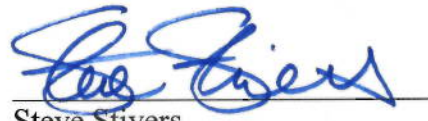
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Bob Latta
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Mike Turner
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress