



June 8, 2018

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Testing Autonomous Vehicles on Public Roads

Dear Senators Blumenthal and Markey,

On behalf of Tesla, this letter responds to your May 25, 2018, request for information regarding safety protocol and practices for testing autonomous vehicles ("AVs") on public roads.

Tesla has conducted testing to develop autonomous vehicles via simulation, in laboratories, on test tracks, and on public roads in various locations around the world. Most importantly, unlike any other company that tests autonomous technology, Tesla has a fleet of hundreds of thousands of customer-owned vehicles with Autopilot, our advanced driver assistance system, from which we are continuously learning to make future autonomous technology better. This results in situational learning from billions of miles of real-world driving and allows Tesla to safely develop autonomous technology without the car actively being controlled by it.

Tesla analyzes this data from our customer fleet via over-the-air ("OTA") transmissions. Customers have a choice when enabling Autopilot whether to participate in this data sharing without any negative impact to the performance of the system. In addition, this data is anonymized and without location. Customers can also deactivate this sharing at any time in the vehicle.

This method of testing enables Tesla to develop our system more efficiently than by only accumulating data from a limited number of autonomous vehicles tested in limited locations. As a result, we are not currently performing public road autonomous testing.

Tesla appreciates this opportunity to share our comments. We support your offices' efforts and welcome additional collaboration to help alleviate constituents' concerns and accelerate us toward a safer driving future. If you have any questions or comments regarding this response, please feel free to contact my colleague, Brooke Kintz, at bkintz@tesla.com, or me at aveitch@tesla.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aveitch', is positioned above the printed name.

Alexandra N. Veitch
Sr. Director, Government Relations & Policy