



May 5, 2025

The Honorable Ashley Carrick, Co- Chair  
The Honorable Ted Eischeid, Co-Chair  
House Committee on Transportation  
102 4th Street  
Juneau, AK 99801

**RE: Oppose – House Bill 217**

Dear Co-Chairs Carrick and Eischeid,

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation respectfully opposes House Bill 217.

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation<sup>1</sup> is the leading advocacy group for the auto industry. We represent the manufacturers producing most of the vehicles sold in the U.S., as well as zero emission vehicle technology providers, EV battery producers, autonomous vehicle innovators, semiconductor makers, and equipment suppliers.

HB 217 has numerous troubling provisions that dramatically limit the use of autonomous vehicle technology, but our primary concerns are as follows.

- Of most significant concern is the requirement that a human safety operator be physically present in the vehicle in order to engage in the transport of interstate commerce, goods, or passengers which effectively, if not explicitly bans the use of AV technology. The mandating of an in-vehicle operator is counter to the entire concept of AV technology.
- The bill does not reference the existing national SAE definitions or standards and is not clear on even what types of autonomous vehicle technology would be affected by the bill. This will only introduce confusion and ambiguity to the existing patchwork of industry standards, state laws, and federal guidelines.
- Creating a presumption of liability and a statutory order of whom is liable in the event of an incident involving an AV is a unique and untested principle that does not reflect the realities of the use of vehicles and autonomous technology. All states apply the same tort principles to AV incidents that apply to incidents involving traditional vehicles.

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<sup>1</sup> **About Alliance for Automotive Innovation:** From the manufacturers producing most vehicles sold in the U.S. to autonomous vehicle innovators to equipment suppliers, battery producers and semiconductor makers – Alliance for Automotive Innovation represents the full auto industry, a sector supporting 10 million American jobs and five percent of the economy. Active in Washington, D.C. and all 50 states, the association is committed to a cleaner, safer, and smarter personal transportation future. [www.autosinnovate.org](http://www.autosinnovate.org).

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation represents the following auto manufacturers; BMW Group, Ferrari, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Hyundai, Isuzu, Jaguar/Land Rover, Kia, Mazda, McLaren, Mercedes-Benz, Mitsubishi Motors, Nissan, Porsche, Stellantis, Subaru, Toyota, VinFast, Volkswagen, and Volvo.

If Alaska were to adopt this bill, it would fall behind other states on autonomous technology innovation. Such an action would make Alaska a national outlier and would forestall AV investment, development, and operations in the state.

While numerous states in recent years have considered legislation that would require a human to be present in an AV, all such bills have been rejected—in both red and blue states alike.

For these reasons, the Alliance for Automotive Innovation must oppose HB 217.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Alliance for Automotive Innovation's position, please contact me at [caugustine@autosinnovate.org](mailto:caugustine@autosinnovate.org) or Ted Popely, the Auto Innovators' legislative representative, at (907) 351-2210 or [tedpopely@yahoo.com](mailto:tedpopely@yahoo.com).

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Curt Augustine  
Senior Director, State Affairs  
Alliance for Automotive Innovation

cc: Members of the House Transportation Committee