



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

Strength in Numbers 95,000

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

William Hamilton, President & Eastern PA Legislative Coordinator – Carl Bailey, Secretary-Treasurer & Western PA Legislative Coordinator - Tim O'Neill, Consultant – Dan Grace, Trustee & Legislative Advisor - Tom Kohn, Esq. Legal Advisor - Thomas Felice, Staff

Weakening Teamsters' Fight on Autonomous Vehicles and the Requirement for a Human Operator



Trump Transition Team Wants to End Crash Report Requirement Opposed by Tesla, Report Says

According to an online article posted by Forbes, President-elect Donald Trump's transition team wants to scrap a regulatory order requiring automakers to report crashes involving vehicles with automated driving systems. The Reuters reports is in alignment with opposition to the rule by Elon Musk's Tesla. Tesla accounts for most crashes reported under the requirement so far. The rule requires automakers to report crashes involving vehicles with automated driving systems to regulators.

Key Facts

The Trump transition team recommends the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration end its "Standing General Order," established in 2021, on crash reporting, requiring automakers to report crashes if automated driving systems are enabled within 30 seconds of the incident, according to an unspecified document obtained by Reuters.

Big Number

2,746. That's how many crashes involving automated driving systems have been reported to the NHTSA since June 2021, according to the agency. Of these, 1,570 (57%) were reported by Tesla, three of which have been

investigated by the NHTSA, including two fatal crashes in 2023 that involved Tesla's "Autopilot" feature.

What We Don't Know

Whether Musk is involved with the transition team's recommendation. Musk, who spent more than \$250 million to help Trump get elected, has grown increasingly closer to Trump as one of his largest supporters and appeared with the president-elect multiple times during his campaign.

Key Background

Tesla's automated driving systems have been the focus of automotive regulators for years. Tesla has pitched its "Autopilot" feature as an advanced driver assistance system that still requires drivers to be "fully attentive" with both hands on the steering wheel and does not "make the vehicle autonomous." Tesla recalled 2 million vehicles in December 2023 to fix a flaw in the "Autopilot" system after regulators found it failed to adequately detect if the driver was paying attention while the system was engaged. That recall was later probed by the NHTSA, which said it "identified concerns" after "post-remedy crash events" were reported to regulators.