



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

Strength in Numbers 95,000

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

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The Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters' position continues to be that the legislature should take appropriate steps to mitigate the damage of existing state statute by either repealing or amending the 2022 AV law with important provisions such as human operator requirements (currently being discussed with lawmakers).

Last week, the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters submitted comments on newly drafted guidelines for the implementation of "highly automated vehicles" (autonomous vehicles) in the state. The underlying legislation that set these guidelines into motion was fervently opposed by Pennsylvania Teamsters several years ago. The comments to the guidelines, written in partnership with IBT Political Department staff members John Mataya and Cole Scandaglia, point out the numerous problematic issues with any implementation of AVs in Pennsylvania.

While the submitted comments spoke to specific issues such as overly-broad language regarding the implementation of the vehicles, the lack of effective penalties, and the need for increased restrictions on any remote operators, the overarching theme of the comments hinged on the fact that the existing underlying state law is extremely flawed and that the autonomous vehicle landscape has changed within just a few years.

In just the past few months, states where smaller 'robotaxis' have been deployed, there have continued to be issues with vehicles recognizing crosswalks and crossing guards, vehicles not recognizing telephone poles (resulting in over 600 AVs recalled), and AVs turning into oncoming traffic and driving down 'bus only' lanes. We can only imagine the increased damage that heavier driverless trucks would bring to our roads.

In light of the increased evidence that these vehicles are not yet ready for 'prime-time', the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters' position continues to be that the legislature should take appropriate steps to mitigate the damage of existing state statute by either repealing or amending the 2022 AV law with important provisions such as human operator requirements (currently being discussed with lawmakers). Only by taking these steps will lawmakers be able to balance a future of work for Pennsylvania workers that also respects public safety and the integrity of the workforce.

The PA Conference of Teamsters along with the help of the IBT will be introducing legislation to repeal or amend the 2022 AV Law. Once entered, the Conference will call upon all of our affiliates to step up and contact your representatives to support this needed legislation that either repeals or amends the 2022 PA AV Law.

John Mataya
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