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December 7, 2021

Mr. Steve Gordon, Director
Department of Motor Vehicles
P.O. Box 932328
Sacramento, California 94232-3280
(Via email)

RE: Tesla's Full Self-Driving Beta Testing

Dear Mr. Gordon,

As you know, in recent months Tesla has rolled out beta versions of its Full Self-Driving (FSD) software which allow Tesla owners and employees to activate self-driving capabilities on California roadways. My understanding is that the FSD features require active driver supervision. I have seen a number of videos of Tesla vehicles operating with FSD engaged where it appears that serious driving errors were made and collisions were avoided only because of swift action by the driver.

I do not know the authenticity of the videos or the context under which the vehicles were operating nor do I know the overall safety performance of Tesla's Full Self-Driving capabilities. However, as the state agency responsible for vehicle and driver safety, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has the knowledge to assess these situations and I request that additional information be provided. What is your assessment of the FSD beta trials? Is there a danger to the public? If the DMV finds the beta program unsafe, how does the DMV plan to address any potential concerns?

We all agree that safety on California roads is a top priority and that deployment of autonomous vehicles can support that priority. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on Tesla's FSD beta testing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lena', with a stylized, flowing script.

Lena Gonzalez
Chair

Cc: Members, Senate Transportation Committee
Barry Steinhart
Cynthia Alvarez