

December 20, 2019

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
United States House of Representative
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Barrasso
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen DeFazio, Barrasso, and Wicker and Ranking Members Graves, Carper, and Cantwell:

The undersigned organizations urge you to allow the use of federal funding to implement automated enforcement, if a state allows it, in work zones. In 2017, almost 800 people were killed and 38,900 people were injured in work zone crashes, and these tragedies are all preventable.¹

Most work zone fatalities and injuries can be attributed to speeding.² Roadside workers are exposed and vulnerable to fast moving vehicles when they are working. Speed enforcement in work zones is effective at reducing speed, but when it is carried out by a law enforcement officer, that person is placed at risk too.³ Implementing automated enforcement systems in work zones is successful in reducing speed, aggressive driving, fatalities, and injuries. For example, in Maryland the implementation of automated enforcement in work zones resulted in an 80% reduction in speeding violations and fatalities have dropped by half since the program's inception.⁴

However, some states lack resources to implement the technology.⁵ By allowing the use of federal funding to support this life-saving technology, you demonstrate safety leadership, showing you prioritize the health and well-being of these workers and law enforcement officers.

Automated enforcement is a technology that is proven to slow drivers and save lives on the roadways, especially in work zones. We hope you will support states that want to use this technology to protect workers and law enforcement officers by allowing federal funds to be used for automated enforcement in work zones.

Sincerely,

American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials
American Road & Transportation Builders Association
American Traffic Safety Services Association
Associated General Contractors of America
Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance
Laborers' Health & Safety Fund of North America
National Asphalt Pavement Association
National Safety Council
National Stone, Sand, & Gravel Association

¹ <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/motor-vehicle/motor-vehicle-safety-issues/work-zones/>

² <http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/trnews/trnews277rpo.pdf>

³ <https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/bitstream/handle/2142/45957/FHWA-ICT-10-064.pdf?sequence=2>

⁴ <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop17044/fhwahop17044.pdf>

⁵ <http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/trnews/trnews277rpo.pdf>