

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 9, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

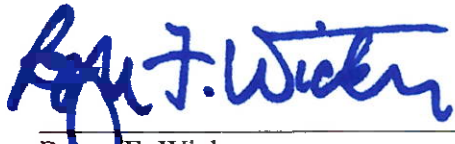
We write to commend the establishment of the Non-Traditional and Emerging Transportation Technology (NETT) Council and the publication of the Federal Register notice seeking comments on regulatory models and alternatives the NETT Council should consider with respect to such new technologies. This notice is an important step in the Department of Transportation's continued efforts to facilitate transportation innovation and improve our nation's connectivity and safety.

Our transportation system continues to evolve and it is imperative that our regulatory oversight and safety checks keep pace. Businesses cannot innovate if the regulatory frameworks in place are unworkable for prompt and safe testing and implementation of new technology, particularly if such innovations could lead to changes that improve the safety and efficiency of travel for people and goods. At the same time, we must ensure safety is the priority when considering new technology.

Strong leadership is critical at the Federal level to support innovative transportation in the U.S. to improve mobility. Your establishment of the NETT Council seeks to provide this guidance and leadership. The Department must now take the next steps to ensure existing mechanisms are workable to effectively regulate emerging technologies. We appreciate the thoughtful approach to addressing oversight gaps for emerging technologies taken to date, and urge you to continue to advance the process upon receiving stakeholder input from the public comment period.

We look forward to continuing to work together, particularly as Congress works on surface transportation infrastructure legislation.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation



Peter A. DeFazio  
Chairman  
House Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure



Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation



Sam Grayes  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure