



Mothers Against Drunk Driving
New Mexico
madd.org/New-Mexico

3411 Candelaria Rd NE
Suite B
Albuquerque, NM 87106
505 255 2955

877.ASK.MADD
877.MADD.HELP 24-Hour Victim
Help Line

November 16, 2021

Mershawn Griego
New Mexico Department of Transportation
PO Box 1149
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Re: 18.24.1 NMAC, Autonomous Vehicle Testing Rule

Dear Mr. Griego:

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) has helped make significant progress in reducing the number of drunk driving fatalities since our founding in 1980. Unfortunately, we still have a long way to go. In New Mexico, drunk driving results in 40% of traffic fatalities and 1,460 injuries annually.

To stop drunk driving, we need a combination of strong drunk driving laws with equitable traffic safety enforcement, educating the public on the consequences of breaking these laws and the pursuit of advanced drunk driving prevention technology systems in all vehicles. It is also important for those over the age of 21 to have a safe ride should they go out to consume alcoholic beverages. To that end, MADD supports autonomous vehicle technology as one of several tools to combat the 100% preventable crime of impaired driving. We support alternative means of transportation that use new and emerging technologies to enable more transportation options throughout the country.

MADD knows that New Mexico has been discussing the policies behind these new technology programs and platforms which include companies like Waymo. Of particular interest to MADD is the potential for these new alternatives to take drunk drivers off the road and provide a safe alternative.

There are drunk driving crashes on New Mexico roads almost every day. We urge you to support autonomous vehicle technology as soon as possible to expand New Mexican's access to safe rides.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Valdez
Regional Executive Director