



Coalition for Safe Autonomous Vehicles and Electrification

November 15, 2021

Mershawn Griego
New Mexico Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1149
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504
Submitted via email to MershawnC.Griego@state.nm.us

RE: 18.24.1 NMAC, Autonomous Vehicle Testing Rule - Statement of Support

Dear Mr. Griego:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft **Autonomous Vehicle Testing Rule** published by the New Mexico Department of Transportation on October 13, 2021. The Coalition for Safe Autonomous Vehicles and Electrification (SAVE Coalition) wishes to express its support for the draft rule.

The SAVE Coalition is composed of companies building all-electric, autonomous vehicles with innovative designs to improve road safety and sustainability. Autonomous vehicles have the potential to improve road safety, reduce vehicle emissions, and expand access for people with disabilities or who live in food deserts, and electric vehicles can reduce carbon dioxide and other tailpipe emissions. The advent of autonomous vehicle technology has allowed for industry to go beyond traditional vehicle design and create innovative vehicles not previously contemplated. For example, autonomy allows for vehicles with no driver, enabling dozens of safety innovations in vehicle design — or even vehicles with no occupants at all, just goods.

Because SAVE members' vehicles are designed to be operated by the ADS, they are designed from the ground up for operation without a driver. This creates opportunities to include safety innovations in the design of the vehicle, as well as avoid the human causes of crashes such as distraction and impairment. Section 18.24.1.9 (D) in the draft rule appropriately recognizes existing and emerging autonomous vehicle technologies. These updates will help spur safety innovation, sustainability, and growth in the design of future vehicles. Additionally, it gives companies the confidence they need to invest in the state. We support the inclusion of this section as drafted and encourage the adoption of this rule.

For more information about the SAVE Coalition, please visit www.savecoalition.com or contact Katie Stevens at kstevens@nuro.ai. We appreciate the opportunity to express support for this important rule.

Sincerely,

Matthew Lipka
Founding Member
Nuro
SAVE Coalition

Bert Kaufman
Founding Member
Zoox
SAVE Coalition

Bob de Kruyff
Founding Member
Local Motors
SAVE Coalition

CC: Charles Remke, Director of New Mexico Department of Transportation