

Testimony of Tepring Piquado Senior Director, State and Local Government Relations, Western U.S. Chamber of Progress Jun 2, 2022

California Public Utilities Commission Cruise's Autonomous Vehicle Passenger Service Application

Good morning President Reynolds and Members of the Commission,

My name is Tepring Piquado and I'm with Chamber of Progress, a center-left tech industry association that works to ensure that all Americans benefit from technological leaps. Our corporate partners include autonomous vehicle companies like Cruise, but our partners do not have a vote on or veto over our positions.

I would like to commend the Commission for issuing Resolution TL-19137.

Widespread commercial adoption of autonomous vehicles has the potential to provide California residents the convenience they need to manage life on a day-to-day basis, make streets safer, close the accessibility and transit gaps, especially for older adults, and support sustainability efforts.

We urge the Commission to take swift action by approving the application and removing unprecedented requirements which would require Cruise to submit updated passenger safety plans, which will only slow the transformative potential for AV technology.

We are concerned that current provisions in Resolution TL-19137 would create unnecessary regulatory obstacles and prolong the promise of autonomous vehicles for communities. The Resolution TL-19137, in its current form, places an undue burden on AV operators by implementing duplicative, unnecessary reporting requirements and mandating an overly burdensome application process. A more efficient approach would be to permit a successive review where passenger transport is not significantly affected.

We encourage the Commission to advance Cruise's Autonomous Vehicle Passenger Service application by approving Resolution TL-19137, with amendments to the operational changes clause.

Thank you for your time and consideration.