



Testimony of Tepring Piquado  
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Chamber of Progress

## **California DMV Public Workshop on AV Light and Heavy Duty**

**January 27, 2023**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Good afternoon, Thank you for convening this meeting and allowing us the opportunity to discuss this important matter.

Tepring Piquado, Senior Director of State and Local Government Relations, for Chamber of Progress.

Chamber of Progress is a tech association that supports public policies at the federal and state level that seek to build a fairer, more inclusive country in which all Americans benefit from technological leaps.

**We are strong supporters of autonomous trucking as an important solution to the shortage of labor and growing demand for timely shipping.**

**My comments speak to the opportunity for AV trucking to support our supply chain.**

Across the country turnover in the trucking industry is very high. According to American Trucking Associations, the average annual turnover rate for long haul drivers at big firms is 90%.<sup>1</sup> High turnover and widespread job vacancies result in significant delays to product shipments and rising prices for basic necessities. The Port of Los Angeles reported that 30% of their port's appointments for truckers were going unused, largely because of the driver shortage.<sup>2</sup>

Happy to provide you with those reports.

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<sup>1</sup>Michelle Fleury, *How will the US deal with a shortage of 80,000 truckers?*, BBC News, (Dec. 2021)  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-59136957>

<sup>2</sup>Madeleine Ngo, *The Biggest Kink in America's Supply Chain: Not Enough Truckers*, NY Times, (Nov. 2021)  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/09/us/politics/trucker-shortage-supply-chain.html>

In addition, moving forward to test autonomous trucking in California is essential not only for the safety of people on the road, but also for the well-being of California's farmers, the entire Central Valley economy, and food distribution to communities around the nation. Lack of drivers and trucks threatens Central Valley farmers' ability to export agricultural goods overseas.<sup>3</sup>

Finally, a survey conducted by Morning Consult commissioned by our organization found that 60% of Democratic voters and 75% of labor union members supported autonomous vehicles being tested in their state.<sup>4</sup>

By developing clear standards and rules for the testing and deployment of autonomous trucks, California can pave the way and help ensure the industry serves everyone locally and globally, and secures the productivity of our supply chain.

For these reasons, **we're eager for the DMV to commence with rulemaking in order to enable the testing and deployment of autonomous trucks in the Golden State.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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<sup>3</sup>Adam Beam, Supply Chain Problems Delay Shipments for California farmers, Los Angeles Times, (Nov. 2021) <https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2021-11-03/supply-chain-california-farmers>

<sup>4</sup> Morning Consult Survey, Chamber of Progress, <http://progresschamber.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Morning-Consult-AV-survey.pdf>