

February 9, 2026

The Honorable Susan McLain, Chair
House Committee on Transportation
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Dear Chair McLain and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of TechNet, the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives, we respectfully write in support of House Bill 4085.

TechNet represents more than 100 American technology companies ranging from innovative startups to globally recognized leaders, including companies developing and deploying autonomous vehicle technologies. Our members employ millions of Americans and are committed to advancing innovation in a manner that improves safety, expands access to opportunity, and strengthens state and local economies.

HB 4085 provides a clear, modern, and responsible framework to authorize the operation of autonomous vehicles on Oregon's public roads. By expressly allowing driverless operation subject to reasonable safety and oversight requirements, this legislation aligns Oregon law with the realities of today's technology and with the approach already adopted by most states.

Importantly, the bill establishes a single statewide framework for autonomous vehicles. Avoiding a patchwork of local rules is essential for safe deployment, regulatory clarity, and interstate travel. Consistent statewide rules benefit law enforcement, regulators, and the traveling public alike.

From a safety perspective, autonomous vehicle technologies are designed to address one of the most persistent challenges on our roadways: human error. National data consistently shows that most crashes are caused by human behavior such as distraction, impairment, fatigue, or speeding. Autonomous driving systems are built to operate without these risks, continuously monitor their surroundings, and follow traffic laws. In states where these technologies are already deployed, they operate safely and transparently under existing traffic and reporting requirements.

Beyond safety, autonomous vehicle deployment offers meaningful economic and workforce benefits. Technology companies deploying these systems create new jobs across a wide range of skill levels, including vehicle technicians, fleet operations staff, customer support roles, mapping and data specialists, and remote assistance operators. Many of these positions do not require a four-year degree and build on skills already present in Oregon's workforce.

Autonomous vehicles also support broader economic activity by improving mobility, enhancing tourism and business travel, increasing freight efficiency, and supporting local businesses. States that provide regulatory certainty are better positioned to attract investment, pilot programs, and long-term operations, while states that delay risk falling behind as capital flows elsewhere.

HB 4085 strikes the right balance by enabling innovation while preserving public safety and existing enforcement authority. It does not weaken traffic laws, does not eliminate accountability, and does not mandate adoption. Instead, it creates a pathway for safe, lawful, and competitive deployment.

For these reasons, TechNet strongly supports HB 4085 and respectfully urges the Committee to vote "yes." We appreciate your leadership and your thoughtful consideration of policies that will help Oregon remain competitive, innovative, and safe.

Sincerely,



Rose Feliciano
Executive Director
Washington + Northwest

