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Chair McLain, Vice-Chairs Boshart Davis and Gamba, and Members of the House Committee on Transportation:

I urge you today to Vote No on HB 4085. There are a plethora issues with this legislation when it comes to safety, privacy, and economic impacts that it would be more than foolish to push this forward. We must take a step back from the ledge of adopting Autonomous Vehicles with zero regulations, and work together to ensure AV's can be deployed safely, while protecting privacy and the dignity of Oregonians.

NOTE: I must warn you, this is a bit of a long one, but stick with me!

Tesla's CEO is a Pedophile Protector, Maker of Killer Robots

It should all concern us that Tesla's majority owner, CEO, and Chairmain Elon Musk has been found to have close associations with known sex offendord and child rapist Jeffrey Epstein. To quote the one email, Elon Musk asked Epstein: "What day/night will be the wildest party on your island?" This was in 2012, four years after Epstein was convicted and became a registered sex offender. This request to 'party' on an island owned by a known sex offender and child rapist would, normally, have gotten any CEO fired on the spot. Instead, Musk remains Tesla's CEO, and millions of Tesla vehicles remain continue to roam around with 360 degree cameras capturing license plates, people's walking gaits, and children's faces.

Not only that, this last year Elon also enabled his AI product, Grok, to produce sexually explicit images of children [AP News]. Today this feature is only available for paid subscribers [TechCrunch]. Distribution of child sexual materials is a grave offense in Oregon under ORS 163.684 defined as a Class B felony carrying up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. I have requested an investigation be conducted by Attorney General Rayfield for this crime, as has happened in the United Kingdom and EU.

Elon Musk's Tesla has been the subject of multiple lawsuits attributed to the deadly "Full Self Driving" features of his vehicles. An entire Wikipedia page lists fatal Tesla Self-Driving crashes, including one Jeremy Banner who was severed in half due to the Tesla vehicle driving under a tractor trailer it mistook for the sky [Bloomberg]. In another instance, an Apple Engineer, Walter Huang, was killed when his Tesla Model X sped up to 71 MPH before slamming into a highway barrier [Bloomberg]. Last year, Tesla settled a lawsuit where a Tesla Model 3 in "Full Self Driving" mode accelerated into the vehicle where 15-year old Jovani Maldonado Garcia was riding as a passenger with his parent. The crash caused the car to flip, ejecting Jovani and killing him instantly [CarComplaints].

Make no mistake: Tesla vehicles are deadly, primarily because of their overreliance on cameras rather than a mix of sensors, including LIDAR. Mark Robert, a former NASA Engineer, showed how a Tesla Model Y is unable to detect a child dummy in broad daylight, and instead ran straight through the dummy and kept going [YouTube]. This unreliable technology is *currently* allowed on Oregon's road despite the clear evidence of it's unreliability.

HB 4085 would give Elon a blank-check to operate his deadly Autonomous Vehicles equipped with 360-degree cameras anywhere in Oregon Why would we allow a CEO who has 'partied' with a known sex offender and child rapist Jeffrey Epstein, who knowingly allowed child sexual material to be produced and hosted by his AI tool, to operate his deadly Autonomous Vehicles in Oregon?

Vote NO on HB 4085 to protect our children and families from the guy who maintained close ties to Epstein, a child rapis, and who makes money selling AI-generated sexual images of children and deadly 'self-crashing' cars.

Google Regularly Violates Your Right to Privacy

Last year, the State of Texas ordered Google to pay out \$1.4 Billion in damages for the violating Texas Privacy laws by tracking people's location, searches, and facial recognition data: [NY Times]. In addition, last year Google was ordered by a Federal Judge in California to pay out over \$400 Million for spying on 98 million Android users' data to target ads, even when users disabled data collection: [Bloomberg]. And then just last month, Google paid a settlement of \$68 Million last month because Google was using their 'smart home' devices to listen to people's private conversations: [BBC].

For Google, this is just the cost of doing business. They made over \$400 Billion in revenue last year. There is no reason Google, the supposed 'golden child' in the race of Autonomous Vehicles, won't stoop to steal and harvest data about every Oregonian in their race to dominate our lives. With 9 in every 10 people worldwide using Google to search, the ads fed to you enables them to underwrite hundreds of millions of dollars investing in other products. It should come as no surprise that Google wants you and your family to spend even more hours of your day being monitored by their vehicles, both while you are riding inside the vehicle and outside it. They already have your emails, your search history, and your location data. Now they can entrap you further during the one time of the day you cannot access their service: while you are driving to your work, to pick up your kids, or get to your doctor appointment.

Google has a long history of snooping on Americans, but with the President turning the DOJ into his personal lawfirm, this just got downright frightening. Last month, 67 Year Old Philadelphia man named Jon sent a cordial email through his Gmail account insisting the DOJ show some compassion toward an Afghan immigrant they were attempting to deport back to Afghanistan who would certainly be killed by the Taliban [Washington Post]. Hours later, Jon was sent a notification that his entire GMail had been subpoenaed, and Federal agents arrived at his door threaten him. Google enabled the DHS to intimidate a polite dissenter. Imagine what they would do to those with more critical opinions.

As US citizens and their families are literally hiding in their homes to avoid being illegally detained, we risk providing Federal agencies an even bigger tool in their arsenal to go after anyone deemed a 'problem' by the President and his goons. With Google/Tesla robots roaming our streets, AI technologies could be used to identify people's faces in real time. I have addressed a letter to the Attorney General to investigate this issue further. HB 4085 has no mention as to what protections Oregonians will be provided to prevent such surveillance from the likes of Tesla, Google, or any other AV operator.

Vote No on HB 4085 to protect Oregonian's from further slipping into a mass surveillance state, and to protect our vulnerable families and neighbors.

AI and AV's will Wipe Out Oregon Jobs, Businesses

AI has become more than a buzz-word. With a 13% decline in entry-level jobs that are exposed to AI/Large Language Models, we are seeing just the beginning of a wholesale disruption of the labor market due to AI [Stanford University]. All of the data stored in Google Drive, Dropbox, or "Cloud Providers" is being used to train AI models. These models don't have to be as good as you, just good enough to make hiring you a bigger pain than paying a \$100-1,000/month to an AI company. Why hire a competent college grad who you have to pay a living wage and takes sick leave when you can have a slightly-less competent robot slave that spits out work that is 'good enough'?

This is the moment where Corporations might be giddy with excitement. But what we saw last week where the S&P 500 lost a trillion dollars of value in one day might give some pause [CNBC]. The AI company Anthropic released a new Legal Search product, similar to LegalZoom [Bloomberg Law]. Immediately, panic set in for every software-related business. If Anthropic can build a Legal SaaS product that is cheaper and just as good in less than a year, which businesses have a big enough "moat" to avoid Anthropic from attacking their lucrative margins?

That's where many companies have it wrong when it comes to AI. It's not a "labor enhancement tool," it's a total labor *and corporation* replacement tool. AI companies are coming for the bottom line of every major business by providing similar, but much cheaper replicas of your products and services. This is what the Chinese companies perfected - steal the intellectual property from the foreign firms greedy enough hire their manufacturers, then get good enough to make replicas to undercut the original company, and drive the 'competitors' into the ground.

AV Companies are just as Cut-Throat as AI Companies

Jeff Bezos had a saying when starting Amazon: your margin is my opportunity. For AI companies, every software company's margin is their opportunity. For AV companies, every transit operator, ride-share company, every trucking company, every logistics company, every car manufacturer, and every car dealership is their opportunity.

The starting gun has sounded. These AI companies will begin to consume what margin many public companies have managed to develop. However, this doesn't just apply to software. AV companies will have no problem performing a full-blown assault on everything from auto makers to logistics companies.

Say goodbye to Ford, GM, and Stellantis. You'll be riding in a Tesla/Waymo AV because first, you don't have to drive the thing, and the costs will be unbeatable without having to pay leasing costs, insurance, maintenance, or for parking. This means every dealership, vehicle parts supplier, tire shop, gas station, and all the companies that provide services to those companies face an existential threat.

And don't forget, that's just the companies related to automobiles. HB 4085 would allow products to be transported via AV's as well. Trucking and logistics firms will be quickly outcompeted by the likes of Prologis and Amazon. Smaller trucking firms will either be bought out or run out of business due to the high cost of turning their fleet into "Autonomous" fleets and the inability to adapt to AI-enabled bidders, while also being squeezed by higher maintenance and labor costs to maintain their existing fleets.

This also poses a threat to railroad operators, particularly short-line operators, as costs of trucking are mostly associated with the high costs of the driver. As lower value commodities can be transported by Autonomous Trucks more affordably, the last of Oregon's short-line RR's will be likely be unable to compete. The Coos Bay Railroad will likely never come to fruition. A greater share of commodities will be transported by diesel trucks, leading to increasing pollution and Greenhouse Gas emissions in a state that already sees higher rates of diesel pollution than neighboring states.

The Incoming AI-Depression

How will the economics work out for Oregon? We will be staring down a giant unemployment line. What China and NAFTA did to blue collar jobs, AI companies will do to entire white-collar industries. By offering professional products & services with greater efficiency and lower costs, they will first eliminate the traditional career ladder for young professionals, and then proceed to take over the higher paying jobs themselves. Autonomous Vehicles companies will eliminate the need for your local dealership and auto mechanic, and proceed to eliminate local trucking and logistics firms until an oligopoly of firms remain (some of whom will mostly employ AI employees rather than people for everything from bidding on jobs to filling out waybills).

AV's and AI are not a 'new technology' in the normal sense. Whereas other technological innovations were able to disrupt industries by enabling workers to be more productive, AI and Autonomous Vehicles are a wholesale replacement for labor, and honestly for entire businesses. Loads of money may be made early on by those companies that can adapt quickly and replace labor, but that will start to create a race to the bottom where fewer jobs are being held by an even smaller share of the population. This will only exacerbate the already horrendous K-shape economy that exists, leading to even greater levels of income inequality.

I'm not going out on a limb by saying this. At the World Economic Forum the CEO of the largest bank in America, Jamie Dimon of JP Morgan Chase, shared that he believes AI will spark 'civil unrest' if we're not careful. He specifically pointed to the trucking industry, commenting on how quickly to adopt self-driving technologies:

Should you do it all at once, if 2 million people go from driving a truck and making \$150,000 a year to a next job that might be \$25,000? No. You'll have civil unrest.

[Observer] [Full Video]

No economy 'works' when you rely on an ever smaller share of the population for the majority of discretionary spending. Rather, you get a recession. When a recession meets some 'unseen' credit crisis, a (sometimes calamitous) depression sets in. I have not seen bread lines in my lifetime, but I would say our the state of our Food Banks are a pretty good indication of where we're headed.

Vote No on HB 4085 to avoid Oregon from experiencing even further deepening inequality and economic collapse. Protect labor from being swept out onto the street in one fell swoop, and work to chart a path that protects human dignity by ensuring AI can only be used to augment, rather than replace workers.

Our Dystopian Present, Future

We have already reached a relatively dystopian future where giant, unaccountable corporations owned by a handful of billionaires have created a web of mass surveillance through the internet, through tracking our phones, and now tracking us as we move about with 360-degree cameras equipped to vehicles. **HB 4085 would bring about an even greater level of in-person surveillance state the likes we've never seen.**

With HB 4085, Google and Tesla will be able to hunt down those critical of the government, Black and Brown Americans, and immigrant families. AV's are a surveillance tool that ICE could only dream of. Pushback from these companies will likely be minimal, as these same corporations, for fear of their bottom line, will continue to bend the knee to the President and the Federal Government to avoid anti-trust lawsuits and to line their pockets with Government contracts.

AI companies and AV companies will take over existing markets and either buy-out or bury existing companies, leading to greater 'enshittification' of the products and services we use. AI & AV companies will attempt to use the data they collect on us to make even more money, like charging more for a ride when our cell phone battery is low. They will not only take a greater share of our limited earnings, but also more of our privacy, rights, and freedoms from us.

Accountability will be even harder to come by, as these corporations will continue to be able to evade it thanks to the ways our democracy and institutions are being eroded by big money and the impact of technology. The 'fourth estate' has been hollowed out by Big Tech companies, social media companies are now owned by the wealthiest people in the world, and corporate media networks have now been turned into propaganda outfits afraid to speak out against the President.

How You Can Stop It

The *first* step to solving a problem is to not make it worse.

Vote no on HB 4085. Oregonians need our leaders to take a stand against the Big Tech firms that have taken advantage of our electricity, our water, and our productive farmland to create destructive AI data centers – the same AI datacenters that steal from writers, artists, and other creative fields. Vote No to ensure our families and children are not unduly exposed to the harms of Autonomous Vehicles that are operated by known child-porn makers, and that have less regulations than soft drinks or the corner coffee shop.

Vote No on HB 4085 to preserve Oregonian's privacy, the dignity of labor, and to fight against these AI/AV companies and their destructive behaviors.

Sincerely,

Richard Sheperd
Portland, Oregon

P.S. Stop using Google Products, and Sell Your Tesla Look up 'De-Google' (and De-Microsoft, for that matter) and start to use products that encrypt your data and are open-source. Otherwise, you are just feeding data into Big Tech's AI training data. Sell your Tesla if you own one, as it too is just another spying device.