

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 316 (Aguiar-Curry and Friedman) - Vehicles:  
2 Autonomous Vehicles]

3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 316, introduced by Assembly**  
4 **Members Aguiar-Curry and Friedman, which restricts autonomous vehicles (AV) with a**  
5 **gross vehicle weight (GVW) of 10,000 pounds or more from being operated on public**  
6 **roads for testing purposes, transporting goods, or transporting passengers without a**  
7 **human safety operator physically present in the AV at the time of operation.**

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9 WHEREAS, On January 23, 2023, Assembly Members Aguiar-Curry and Friedman,  
10 introduced Assembly Bill 316 that defines a “human safety operator” to mean a person  
11 operating an autonomous vehicle or vehicle equipped with autonomous technology who is  
12 trained in operating and shutting off the vehicle; and

13 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 316 would require a human safety operator to meet all  
14 federal and state qualifications for the type of vehicle being operated, whether in automated or  
15 nonautomated mode; and

16 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 316 has the support of the International Brotherhood of  
17 Teamsters and the California Labor Federation, who argue that autonomous vehicle  
18 technology threatens the livelihood of thousands of workers; and

19 WHEREAS, On January 30, 2023, Jason Rabinowitz, Teamsters Joint Council 7  
20 President was reported saying, “The Teamsters are working closely with elected officials and  
21 other stakeholders to make sure that technological advancement moves forward in California  
22 in a way that doesn’t endanger lives or prosperity. Our elected officials have a responsibility to  
23 protect workers and communities - not the shareholders at big tech companies - and this bill is  
24 a great example of that.”; and

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1           WHEREAS, California Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) regulations prohibit the  
2 testing or deployment of AVs over with a GVW of 10,001 pounds or more; this was initially  
3 done for safety reasons, as vehicles with heavier weights are capable of causing significantly  
4 more damage in a collision; and

5           WHEREAS, DMV held a public workshop on January 27, 2023, to receive public  
6 comment to potentially start a new regulatory process to consider authorizing the testing and  
7 deployment of AVs over 10,000 pounds after years of lobbying efforts to expand testing and  
8 deployment permits for heavier vehicles; and

9           WHEREAS, According to its author, “Assembly Bill 316 places a needed guardrail on  
10 the deployment of autonomous medium- and heavy-duty vehicles on California’s public roads.  
11 As California considers expanding autonomous technology to include trucks, buses and other  
12 large vehicles, AVs have greater potential to injure and kill Californians and displace large  
13 portions of the workforce. This bill requires that a certified human safety operator supervise  
14 AVs when they are on public roads, so that a human can respond to unanticipated driving  
15 situations and emergencies. By requiring a human safety operator, this bill allows the  
16 technology to continue to develop, while also protecting public safety and providing a path to  
17 help California’s transportation workforce adapt to AV technology”; and

18           WHEREAS, AVs are vulnerable to cyber-attacks, which could potentially compromise  
19 the safety of passengers and other road users. Hackers could gain access to the vehicle's  
20 control systems and cause the vehicle to behave erratically or crash; and

21           WHEREAS, While AVs can process large amounts of data and make quick decisions,  
22 they lack the human judgment and intuition that can sometimes be crucial in avoiding  
23 accidents. For example, an AV may not be able to anticipate the actions of a human driver or  
24 pedestrian, leading to collisions; and

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1           WHEREAS, In addition to the safety risks, corporations such as Google (Waymo is the  
2 subsidiary), Uber (Uber Freight is the subsidiary), and Amazon (Zoox is the subsidiary) have  
3 yet to outline how they will ensure workers will keep their jobs as automation enters the  
4 industry; and

5           WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 316 strikes a balance between technological advancement  
6 and the public good; it allows for the testing and further development of autonomous heavy-  
7 duty vehicles on public roads; companies can continue to test fully driverless technology on  
8 private tracks as they work out the bugs and further develop the technology; the bill also  
9 protects jobs and public safety as the technology is tested and advanced; now, therefore, be it

10          RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
11 supports Assembly Bill 316, “The Autonomous Vehicle Public Safety Act”; this bipartisan  
12 legislation, authored by Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters) and co-authored  
13 by Assembly Member Tom Lackey (R-Palmdale), requires human safety operators to be  
14 present in AVs weighing over 10,000 pounds; and, be it

15          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
16 Francisco directs the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to transmit a copy of this Resolution to  
17 Assembly Members Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Laura Friedman, Phil Ting and Matt Haney.

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