

Opening Statement of Greer Woodruff
Senior Vice President of Safety, Security and Driver Personnel at J.B Hunt Transport
on behalf of
American Trucking Associations to the
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
Roundtable “Emerging Technologies in the Trucking Industry”

December 7, 2017

Good Morning and thank you for inviting me to participate in this roundtable on “Emerging Technologies in the Transportation Industry”.

I’m Greer Woodruff, Sr. VP of Safety, Security and Driver Personnel for J.B. Hunt. J.B. Hunt Transport Services provides innovative supply chain solutions for a variety of customers throughout North America utilizing an integrated multimodal approach based on technology-driven methods to create the best solution for each customer. J.B. Hunt’s services include intermodal, dedicated, refrigerated, truckload, less than truckload, flatbed and final mile delivery. We operate nearly 14,000 tractors and over 100,000 pieces of trailing equipment and employ over 24,000 people. I am not only representing J.B. Hunt but also the American Trucking Association.

J.B. Hunt and many ATA members are early adopters of emerging safety technologies. In fact the trucking industry spends over \$9 Billion annually on safety including technology enhancements, to help ensure that drivers and passengers of all vehicles make it safely to their destination.

These driver assist and advanced driver assist technologies are foundational for achieving High Automation (Level 4) and Fully Autonomous (Level 5) vehicles. These safety technologies offer immediate safety benefits as they are adopted and some are mature enough and have proven safety benefits that warrants serious consideration by NHTSA that they become standard specifications on all vehicles. While we support pursuit of autonomous vehicles, we recognize that commercial drivers are an indispensable asset to the safe operation of commercial motor vehicles.

We believe that the legislation on autonomous vehicles that is under consideration by Congress should address both passenger and commercial motor vehicles such as: federal preemption to ensure state and federal laws do not conflict or impede interstate commerce, and the ability to receive exemptions from existing federal regulations so that new technologies can be developed and tested.

Additionally, J.B. Hunt has recently announced that we have placed a reservation to purchase multiple Tesla Semi tractors and plans to deploy them in Intermodal and Dedicated Contract Services divisions to support operations on the West Coast. These electric tractors will have advanced driver safety assist systems.

Electric vehicle battery costs per kilowatt hour have declined 65% since 2010 and 35% this year. Combined with expected maintenance benefits, the total cost of ownership is anticipated to rival diesel engine CMV.

Tesla's current electric vehicles have a range of 300 miles and it is reported the range will be extended to 500 miles and an 80% charge can be accomplished in 30 minutes.

Based on these advancements, ATA and J.B. Hunt support confirmed testing, deployment, and adoption of Advanced Driver Assist systems and Electric Vehicles.