



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

April 19, 2024

The Honorable Dave Cortese
Member, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 6630
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 915 – Support
As Amended April 11, 2024**

Dear Senator Cortese:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we are pleased to support your Senate Bill 915, regarding autonomous vehicles. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each member county.

Senate Bill 915 ensures that local governments retain authority to protect public safety by establishing ordinances regulating the operation of autonomous vehicles in their communities. Under existing law, the Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Utilities Commission are charged with authorizing the deployment of autonomous vehicles throughout the state.

Early deployment of autonomous vehicles caused serious public safety concerns in many communities and highlighted existing limitations on local control. As autonomous vehicle deployment extends into rural and unincorporated areas of the state, local input and control is vital. Operating in rural California will bring with it many challenges that are not often encountered in urban communities, including frequent and long-duration power outages and limited to nonexistent internet connectivity. These challenges will require close cooperation and coordination between local governments and autonomous vehicle companies to ensure smooth and successful operation. We are pleased that SB 915 clarifies the ability for local governments to regulate the operation of autonomous vehicles within their communities to protect public safety and avoid some of the negative impacts experienced in San Francisco and other areas.

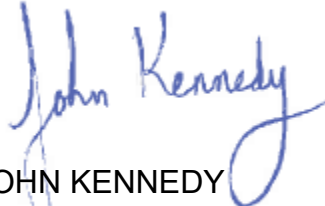
For the above reasons, RCRC is pleased to support your SB 915. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jkennedy@rcrcnet.org.

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Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY
Senior Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Member, California State Assembly
Members of the Senate Transportation Committee
Randy Chinn, Senate Transportation Committee
Ted Morley, Consultant, Senate Republican Committee