

July 22, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

We commend your efforts to develop a bipartisan infrastructure policy necessary to advance economic growth and innovation in this country. As you and the bipartisan group of members from the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives continue to work and finalize details on a national infrastructure framework, the Consumer Technology Association (CTA) asks you to consider our feedback on ways to bolster innovation, global competitiveness, sustainable transportation, and the deployment of automated vehicles. Our members are the world's leading innovators – from startups to global brands – helping support more than 18 million American jobs, including many working to make the driving experience safer with self-driving vehicles.

We believe that forward thinking and technology neutral policy can foster innovation and support our economy. CTA does not seek government funding for our industry or membership. We are concerned with the growing federal debt and increasing interest rates. In that spirit, CTA suggests that Congress and the Administration fund these important investments in our national infrastructure from untouched COVID-19 funds and leveraging public private partnerships.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework includes several provisions relating to the use of innovative technologies. CTA believes the following should be included in any final bill:

- **Improve sustainable transportation options and increase access to transportation.** Transportation systems and their distribution models should seek to limit the impacts of climate change, reduce carbon emissions, and provide greater mobility options for all to make transportation more accessible and equitable. Sustainability efforts for our roads, power, and water sources have the power to unleash new technologies and improve quality of life for consumers, with greater mobility, health, and safety.
- **Support the advancement of self-driving vehicles.** More than 38,000 people died on U.S. roads in 2020 - the largest estimated number of fatalities since 2007, despite fewer

people driving. Self-driving technologies will save American lives by mitigating human error, which is responsible for 94% of traffic fatalities. CTA recommends directing NHTSA to revise outdated FMVSS and FMCSA to update the FMCSRs, promptly act upon exemption petitions for self-driving vehicles, and encourage states to harmonize their self-driving and traffic regulations to avoid a state patchwork of conflicting laws. Self-driving technology is also essential to our national competitiveness. The U.S. needs federal self-driving vehicle legislation to remain competitive with China and the European Union.

- **Broadband connectivity for Americans.** CTA supports increased broadband connectivity for Americans. 5G will enable everything from digital health to smart cities, boost mobile internet connectivity and transform our economy. CTA is committed to addressing the demands of our connected world and working with Congress and the Administration to build America's 5G infrastructure.
- **Develop smart and resilient infrastructure.** Smart infrastructure will help people and goods move more quickly and efficiently. Approximately 66% of U.S. cities are already investing in smart infrastructure. The Biden Administration has recognized that cybersecurity is a core part of resilience and building infrastructure of the future. Consistent with this priority, the White House and Congress should develop infrastructure legislation allocating opportunities to bolster the cyber defense of our nation's infrastructure.
- **Encourage the development of electric vehicle innovations.** CTA supports increased sustainability through electric vehicles. We believe these innovations should be technology neutral. CTA encourages the Administration to prioritize charging infrastructure and address the chip shortage that is impacting the automotive sector, particularly for electric vehicles.
- **Support innovative approaches to transportation of the future and maintain global leadership.** Policymakers should prioritize policy initiatives that encourage innovation in design, production, distribution, and remain technology neutral. The possibilities remain limitless if the government creates an environment for the U.S. to continue leading globally in artificial intelligence and the technology sector.

Infrastructure that would facilitate the benefits of innovative transportation will require commitment, vision and flexibility. If the White House and Congress makes positive innovation a priority, the Federal government can enable cutting-edge transportation technology to flourish.

As Congress focuses on infrastructure legislation, we strongly encourage you to consider ways to support American innovation, remove unnecessary roadblocks and create a clear and

practical regulatory path that allows these next-generation technologies to come to fruition in the U.S. CTA offers the White House its resources and expertise in this effort. We appreciate your leadership and consideration of these issues impacting innovation in transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Shapiro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being more prominent than the last name "Shapiro".

Gary Shapiro  
President and CEO

CC: U.S. Senate, Office of the Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate, Office of the Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Minority Leader