

Submitter: Anders Hart
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4085

I oppose House Bill 4085. This bill fails to anticipate unintended consequences and will strain our overburdened transportation system.

The “on-demand autonomous vehicle networks” authorized by this bill will increase the number of vehicles on our roads and worsen congestion. This added traffic will strain our already overburdened transportation system, leading to increased capital project and maintenance needs.

Additionally, the bill would prohibit local governments from implementing common-sense regulations to protect safety and ensure that any use of autonomous vehicles serves communities’ best interests. The bill also prevents local governments from assessing fees on autonomous vehicles or autonomous vehicle networks, leaving taxpayers to pick up the tab for the increased wear and tear on our roads.

This rush to welcome autonomous vehicles takes attention and road space from solutions that are proven to save lives, reduce congestion, and improve quality of life: frequent transit service, walking and biking infrastructure, and safety upgrades to our road system. I implore the Committee to pause this effort and instead engage transportation experts and stakeholders from local government and communities across the state.