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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

January 26, 2022

John Bozzella, President & CEO
Alliance for Automotive Innovation
1050 K Street NW #650
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Bozzella:

I write to request your assistance in combating the alarming increase in carjackings around the country. Addressing this growing problem requires action by a range of government, law enforcement, industry, and community stakeholders who can each play a key role in better coordination to prevent and respond to carjackings.

Specifically, I urge the Alliance for Automotive Innovation to coordinate the automakers to develop uniform and standardized methods for law enforcement to seek vehicle manufacturers' assistance in locating stolen vehicles. This will help decrease carjacking incidents by assisting law enforcement in recovering stolen vehicles sooner, identifying perpetrators faster, and preventing stolen cars from being used in other crimes.

The speed with which law enforcement can locate a carjacked vehicle plays an important role in how effective law enforcement can be in responding to carjackings and apprehending offenders. However, despite most newer vehicles being equipped with telemetry tools that can be used by the manufacturer to locate the vehicle, the complicated process of contacting vehicle manufacturers and accessing vehicle location tracking data often results in unnecessary delays that impact law enforcement's ability to effectively combat these crimes. The procedures for law enforcement agencies to access information from vehicle manufacturers vary widely across the auto industry, and accessing location tracking data from vehicle manufacturers can take law enforcement hours or even weeks. Without uniform industry procedures, law enforcement agencies often struggle to even reach the appropriate contact at a vehicle manufacturer to seek this data quickly. The information and verification that manufacturers require law enforcement to provide in order to access location data also vary widely.

The auto industry must do more to provide law enforcement with the tools they need to combat carjacking. Developing uniform industry procedures to make it easier for law enforcement to contact manufacturers and access valuable location data on stolen vehicles would be an important first step. I urge the auto industry to work with law enforcement and the Department of Transportation to take this action, and I am prepared to support this effort any way I can.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
Chair

cc: The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530