

June 23, 2022

The Honorable Mark Stone
Chair, Assembly Committee on Judiciary
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1398 (Gonzalez) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Stone:

As a lifelong advocate for safety and innovation, I wish to provide my support of SB 1398, Vehicle Consumer Notices. Since establishing Green Hills Software in 1982, I have worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of crucial systems across all sectors. Among other things, Green Hills Software has designed and written the core security systems for military and commercial aircraft, “Top Secret” encryptors, laptops for FBI field agents, and military cell phones and radios. Our company’s mission and focus is to write, develop and improve software that protects the consumer and cannot be hacked. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for certain vehicles being sold in increasing numbers to California motorists.

California’s current autonomous vehicle regulations have permitted the introduction of unsafe and faulty software to operate vehicles that share the road with our children and families. Since the California Department of Vehicles is limited to regulating automated driving systems designed to operate at SAE Level 3 and above, there is little oversight of the Level 2 vehicle software that is currently operating in some vehicles – including those manufactured by Tesla.

The current marketing techniques, utilized by some car manufactures, do not fully disclose the limitations of Level 2 Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS). As reported by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration this month, 392 Level 2 vehicle crashes were reported between July 2021 and May 2022, including six fatalities. California holds the unenviable distinction of having 125 of all reported Level 2 ADAS crashes. Senate Bill 1398 provides plain language guidance that requires car dealers and manufactures to ensure consumers know the limitations of the technologies they are purchasing.

SB 1398 represents an important step in providing the type of protection that consumers need. I look forward to working with you to expand this effort and include language that secures access to specific data on California accidents due to FSD software. I support any and all efforts that thoughtfully prevent vehicles, that have known safety limitations, from sharing our streets. We can no longer allow Californians to make decisions based on deceptive marketing and which may ultimately cost them their lives and put the lives of others at risk. For these reasons, I support SB 1398 and urge its passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan O’Dowd

