

Kansas State Legislature
300 SW 10th St
Topeka, KS 66612

Monday, March 28 2022

Richard Steiner on behalf of Gatik: Testimony in support of SB 546, providing for the use and regulation of autonomous vehicles in Kansas

Chairman Proehl and members of the House Transportation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today in support of Senate Bill 546 and share with you our vision for the safe and structured introduction of autonomous vehicles in the state of Kansas. Gatik delivers goods safely and efficiently using its fleet of light and medium duty trucks on behalf of Walmart, and we look forward to ensuring the benefits of our autonomous solution can be realized by Kansans in the near-term. Since commencing commercial operations, we have achieved a 100 percent safety record across each operational site.

This bill will enable us to provide the following benefits:

- Improve safety by reducing the number of road incidents caused by distracted, inattentive or impaired driving;
- Establish reliability across the supply chain by protecting against driver shortages, securing dedicated capacity and increasing product flow;
- Reduce emissions and meet sustainability goals by improving fuel economics and reducing service and maintenance requirements.

During an era in which the supply chain is under more pressure than ever before, Gatik's autonomous technology and partnership with Walmart provides the capability to address these challenges in Kansas, and help to establish a supply chain that is safer, more sustainable and more resilient. Gatik's proposed roll-out of autonomous vehicles in Kansas will help to make sure essential goods and supplies are available, with speed and efficiency, to Kansans. Gatik's proposed operations in the state are poised to support economic growth and create new employment opportunities for Kansas. It is expected that Gatik's deployment in the state will create 20-25 new positions within 18 months of commencing operations.

Gatik sincerely appreciates the opportunity to share this testimony in support of SB 546 and looks forward to working closely with the state of Kansas, relevant authorities and stakeholders to ensure that the safety, economic and societal benefits of autonomous delivery can be realized by Kansas in the near-term.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Steiner

Richard Steiner, Head of Policy, Gatik

