

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

March 10, 2022

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

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today in support of SB 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, our meticulous approach to fail-safe operations is the reason Gatik has achieved a 100 percent safety record across each operational site. Our autonomous delivery service provides 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.

The benefits of Gatik's proposed operations in Kansas will be significant: establishing a safe, reliable solution for the supply chain, creating jobs, working with local organizations to connect people to jobs, reducing costs and driving sustainability. 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 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

