

PUBLIC HEARING

ON

Bill 19-931 “Autonomous Vehicle Act of 2012”

**Before the
Committee on the Environment, Public Works and Transportation
Councilmember Mary Cheh, Chairman**

And

**Committee on Finance and Revenue
Councilmember Jack Evans, Chairman**

**October 23, 2012, 1:00 PM
John A. Wilson Building, Room 500**



**Testimony of
John Ross
Senior Advisor and Director of Economic Development Finance
Office of the Chief Financial Officer**

**Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer
Government of the District of Columbia**

My name is John Ross, Senior Advisor and Director of Economic Development Finance for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer. I am here to testify on, Bill 19-931, The Autonomous Vehicle Act of 2012.

The proposed legislation permits certain driverless vehicles to operate on public roadways in the District. The legislation requires these “Autonomous Vehicles” to meet certain criteria, including a requirement to utilize alternative fuels.

As introduced, the legislation would exempt autonomous vehicles meeting certain standards from the District’s motor fuel tax, which is currently set at 23.5 cents per gallon. The legislation would also add a Vehicle Miles Traveled or VMT fee of 1.85 cents per mile, which would be tabulated using a vehicle’s telemetry system.

Because the legislation includes a tax exemption under Section 47 of the DC Code, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer was required to complete an analysis to determine whether it is likely that residents would purchase or operate Autonomous Vehicles without the proposed tax exemption.

The CFO finds that the motor fuel tax exemption proposed in the legislation is not required in order to encourage autonomous vehicles to be owned and operated in the District. The value of the exemption is expected to range from zero to \$80 per year per vehicle, depending on the type of fuel used and miles driven. The OCFO finds that such minimal savings are unlikely to have any material effect on a car buyer's decision to purchase or operate an autonomous vehicle in the District.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. This concludes my testimony and I am happy to answer any questions you have at this time.