



August 10, 2023

Today, the California Public Utilities Commission will vote on whether to significantly expand the deployment of driverless taxis operated by Waymo and Cruise. The community has expressed strong opposition based on the public safety impact, including these vehicles frequently blocking emergency response vehicles. That’s why the San Francisco Fire Chief, the San Francisco and Alameda Firefighters Association Locals 798 and 689, the Police Officers Research Association of California, the San Francisco, Oakland, and Santa Ana Police Officers Association, the San Francisco Sheriff, the San Francisco and San Mateo Deputy Sheriffs Associations, and nearly all local elected officials have objected to this expansion.

In addition to safety concerns, we see the unregulated expansion of robo-taxis as part of the push by tech companies to use technology, including automation and artificial intelligence, to replace workers and deskill jobs. Workers in San Francisco provide every type of transportation: public buses and trains, school transportation, package delivery, taxis,

rideshare and restaurant delivery, retail delivery, and more. All these jobs could be jeopardized by the expansion of unregulated driverless taxis.

In the entertainment industry, workers are holding the line on strike to stop the use of technology to eliminate jobs and undermine working conditions. The Teamsters Union and the California Labor Federation are sponsoring legislation to require a human operator on driverless big rigs to ensure safety and prevent job loss. These fights are all interconnected and we must ensure that workers have a voice in the way new technologies are developed, deployed and regulated.

We urge the CPUC to postpone this vote until there is evidence that these vehicles can be operated safely, and a better understanding of the displacement of workers that will result.

California Labor Federation

AFSCME People

Alameda Labor Council

Amalgamated Transit Union - California Conference

California Federation of Teachers

California Nurses Association

California Professional Firefighters

California School Employees Association

California Teamsters Public Affairs Council

Central Coast Labor Council

Contra Costa County Central Labor Council

Entertainment Union Coalition

International Association of Machinists & Aerospace

Los Angeles County Federation of Labor

Monterey Bay Central Labor Council

Napa Solano Central Labor Council

North Bay Labor Council

Orange County Labor Federation

SAG-AFTRA

San Diego & Imperial Counties Labor Council

San Francisco Labor Council

San Mateo Labor Council

Service Employees International Union California State Council

SMART - Transportation Division

South Bay Labor Council

State Building & Construction Trades Council

Transport Workers Union of America

United Auto Workers

United Food and Commercial Workers Western States Council

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