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**ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES AND THREATS OF
AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES TO TRANSPORTATION
WORKER JOBS IN OHIO**

WHEREAS: Dedicated public transportation workers in Ohio are the backbone of the state's transit systems, working on the front lines to move millions of Ohioans each year; and

WHEREAS: Full-time transit system jobs, have provided and continue to provide family- supporting wages and benefits for labor union members; and

WHEREAS: Public transit workers adhere to a web of regulations set by federal and state lawmakers that ensure the safe, efficient, and secure movement of passengers; and

WHEREAS: Transit operators do far more than drive vehicles, including providing directions, helping seniors and disabled passengers board and alight, and preventing and reporting crimes; and

WHEREAS: Over the years, new technologies have been implemented, which, while not capable of replacing operators, have helped improve safety on public transit, including collision avoidance; and

WHEREAS: A new technology – autonomous vehicles– which could make rapid and sweeping changes to the way riders travel, is being tested in states across the country, and these driverless vehicles have committed traffic violations, caused fatal accidents, and proven to be vulnerable to cyberattacks; and

WHEREAS: If autonomous vehicles are introduced in Columbus and in other jurisdictions in Ohio, and are used to displace transportation workers or to gut well-paid union jobs, they will have a massive, negative impact on Ohioans who earn their living in the transit industry, including the hardworking members of the TWU, as well as on the local communities and the national economy to which they contribute; and

WHEREAS: The Ohio State AFL-CIO will work with other labor affiliates and allied groups to fight back and launch aggressive campaigns to preserve well-paid jobs for all labor union members.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the State AFL-CIO urges that regulators give all due consideration to the serious safety and security issues associated with autonomous passenger buses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Ohio AFL-CIO recognizes that technology is not an adequate substitute for human operators and declares its opposition to the replacement of experienced, professional transportation workers, who have long provided their communities essential, safe and secure public transit services, by autonomous vehicles in the provision of public transportation.

Submitted by: Transport Workers Union Local 208