The Impact of Technology and AI on Workplace Safety

Hearing on "Building an AI-Ready America: Safer Workplaces Through Smarter Technology"

Committee on Education and Workforce

Subcommittee on Workforce Protections

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Introduction

Chairman Mackenzie, Ranking Member Omar, and Members of the Subcommittee—thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

We appreciate the Committee's focus on workplace safety and the opportunity to share how proven, deployable AI technologies are already improving conditions for millions of frontline workers—and how thoughtful policy can help accelerate those benefits.

While the public conversation around artificial intelligence has focused largely on generative text and office productivity, the most consequential impact of AI is happening far away from the desk. It is happening in physical operations: on the road, on job sites, and on airport tarmacs.

These are the jobs that power the economy and move our goods. They are the jobs where risk is constant, and the cost of failure is not pecuniary, it is injury or loss of life. At Samsara, we work with some of the world's most complex logistical, transportation, and infrastructure companies and public sector agencies that keep this country running. We have seen firsthand that in these environments, AI is not an abstract concept. It's a task-based, situational, and preventive tool.

Our data shows that when AI is designed around real-world risk, adoption translates directly into outcomes.

About Samsara

Samsara builds connected, AI-powered technologies for physical operations. Our customers span transportation, logistics, construction, utilities, and public sector agencies—sectors that represent more than **40 percent of global GDP** and millions of American workers performing some of the most dangerous jobs in the economy.

We are focused on these sectors because this is where risk is highest. Our platform combines sensors and AI-powered video to turn real-time data into actionable safety insights—detecting distracted driving, alerting ground crews to unsafe conditions on the tarmac, and protecting lone workers to ensure they are not invisible if something goes wrong. This means fewer crashes, fewer injuries, higher retention, and safer workplaces for millions of frontline workers.

For instance, Mr. Chairman, we work with the City of Allentown and Bethlehem Public Works in Pennsylvania to ensure city services are delivered efficiently while keeping drivers safe.

Ranking Member Omar, at the Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport, our asset tracking and AI-cameras give operations teams the visibility needed to coordinate responses and keep runway operations and crews safe.

We know that technology alone is only half the solution. The true breakthrough in safety occurs when we pair detection with skills development. AI is now unlocking a new era of targeted coaching that respects a worker's time. Instead of pulling employees off the job for hours of generic, "one-size-fits-all" training, AI identifies specific coaching opportunities based on actual events. This allows for personalized training that addresses a worker's specific needs exactly when they need it. It is the combination of these two elements — real-time technology plus tailored skill-building — that fully unlocks workplace safety.

Where Workplace Risk Actually Lives

To understand the role AI plays in workplace safety, we must recognize that **most workplace risk does not exist behind a desk**. It exists in the field.

Consider commercial transportation, where workers operate vehicles weighing up to 80,000 pounds, often at highway speeds, or delivery vehicles navigating around pedestrians in dense urban areas. According to federal data, roughly **42,000 Americans die on U.S. roads each year.** In Samsara's recent research surveying 1,500 CDL drivers, 79 percent reported experiencing a close call in the past year alone due to distraction.

This is where AI-enabled safety systems deliver operational outcomes, not just theoretical benefits. Fleets that have adopted Samsara's AI safety technologies see an aggregated **37 percent reduction in crashes within six months.** Furthermore, we observe an aggregated **96 percent reduction in mobile phone usage while driving** and a **69 percent decrease in harsh driving events**.

These are not theoretical benefits. They are operational outcomes.

Beyond the Road: Airports, Job Sites, and Lone Workers

The principles that apply to commercial transportation are also applicable to other industries.

At major airports, ground crews operate in extreme conditions—summer heat exceeding 130 degrees, winter cold, constant vehicle movement, and vast operational footprints. Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, a Samsara customer, covers an area comparable to Manhattan. At airports like DFW, AI-driven safety systems improve situational awareness and prevent incidents between ground vehicles and aircraft.

In construction and field services, AI-enabled wearables and fall detection help ensure that if a lone worker is exposed to hazardous conditions, they are never truly "invisible" — support can be dispatched immediately.

Changing Expectations in the Workforce

Technology expectations are also shifting. In a recent survey of leaders overseeing 5.5 million workers, **85 percent** said a tech-forward approach makes physical operations careers more attractive to younger workers. The modern workforce expects the same level of safety technology at work that they utilize in their personal lives.

What's more, investments in worker safety improve worker retention. DHL, another Samsara customer, integrated our systems across thousands of vehicles. In addition to a **60 percent drop in harsh driving events**, they saw a **50 percent increase in driver retention**. When workers feel protected, they are likely to stay in the job.

The Role of Congress

Congress has an important opportunity to help accelerate these proven benefits; as appropriations and other packages are considered, we encourage supporting programs that incentivize and advance the adoption of AI technologies that improve workplace safety.

First, AI can support smarter, **more tailored regulation**. Currently many safety regulations rely on static thresholds. AI enables a shift toward dynamic, outcome-based protection. For example, regarding heat stress: Rather than relying on broad temperature assumptions, AI-driven environmental sensors and wearables can monitor real-time data to identify specific risks to workers before they become critical.

Second, AI can meaningfully improve **worker training**, enabling more targeted, adaptive programs that reflect real-world conditions rather than one-size-fits-all programs. Safety

management programs in physical operations should be encouraged to leverage AI to maximize both impact and efficiency.

Lastly, we can **incentivize adoption of AI safety technology** at our airports, on our roadways, and in our city and state services. These are job sites for frontline workers that can be made safer through technology.

Conclusion

AI is already improving workplace safety today in the environments where risk is highest. The evidence shows that when technology is practical, protective, and respectful of workers, it saves lives.

Samsara looks forward to working with this Committee to ensure policy frameworks support responsible innovation and deliver real-world safety gains for the people who need them most.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.