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To whom it may concern,

I understand that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors is considering a resolution that calls for restrictions on the development and use of autonomous weapons. I would like to convey my strong support for the resolution.

I am a Professor and former Chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences at Berkeley. My research area is Artificial Intelligence. I am a co-author of the 2015 Open Letter From AI & Robotics Researchers calling for a ban on autonomous weapons, which was signed by 3,462 AI/Robotics researchers and 18,909 others. I am also a signatory of the Open Letter to the United Nations CCW from company founders, which is cited in the resolution.

I have studied the issues concerning autonomous weapons and have concluded that such weapons, as defined by the ICRC, could feasibly be developed and deployed in a short time-scale using currently available methods and technologies. Moreover, they present a major threat to humanity because they will constitute scalable weapons of mass destruction. They will reduce human security at the individual, local, national, and international levels.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Russell
Professor of Computer Science, UC Berkeley