

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

January 28, 2010

The Honorable David L. Strickland
Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Strickland:

The Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Committee on Energy and Commerce will hold a hearing on February 25, 2010, to examine persistent consumer complaints of sudden unintended acceleration in vehicles manufactured by Toyota Motor Corporation.

According to data compiled by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), sudden acceleration events in Toyota vehicles have led to 19 deaths in the past decade, nearly twice the number of deaths associated with similar events in cars manufactured by all other automakers combined. In the past few months, Toyota has issued two recalls covering millions of vehicles based on concerns over sudden unintended acceleration. On January 26, 2010, Toyota took the unprecedented step of halting U.S. sales and production of eight models. Yesterday, Toyota announced that it had added one million additional vehicles to a recall issued in the fall because floor mats could jam their accelerator pedals.

Committee staff met with Toyota representatives yesterday to discuss these issues. This discussion was helpful, but it left important questions unanswered, including when Toyota learned about these serious safety defects and what actions the company took to investigate and resolve the hazards. To assist the Committee with its investigation, we request that your agency produce the following information and documents related to Toyota vehicles sold in the United States:

1. A timeline from January 1, 2000, until the present, for each Toyota model for which NHTSA has received consumer complaints; warranty reports; field reports; or reports of death, injury, or property damage related to sudden unintended acceleration, including the following information:

- a. The date upon which NHTSA first became aware of each allegation of sudden unintended acceleration;
 - b. All actions the agency undertook to examine each allegation and the dates upon which those actions were taken;
 - c. The date upon which NHTSA identified or became aware of Toyota's identification of the defect responsible for the sudden unintended acceleration, or the date upon which NHTSA or the company determined that no defect was present, and all documents supporting this determination;
 - d. The substance and date of any corrective actions NHTSA undertook to address its or Toyota's identification of a defect causing sudden unintended acceleration.
2. All analyses of the Early Warning System for sudden unintended acceleration in Toyota vehicles, and for sudden unintended acceleration in all vehicles sold in the U.S.;
 3. All analyses of defect petitions; consumer complaints; warranty reports; field reports; and reports of death, injury, or property damage related to incidents which are alleged or proven to have been caused by the sudden unintended acceleration of a Toyota vehicle and all analyses of electronic throttle components related to allegations of sudden unintended acceleration in Toyota vehicles; and
 4. All communications, including e-mail, to, or from, Toyota related to sudden unintended acceleration of a Toyota vehicle and any documents assessing or commenting upon Toyota's cooperation with NHTSA requests for information related to sudden unintended acceleration.

Please also have a member of your staff contact the Committee to schedule a briefing addressing the following issues:

1. The substance and scope of any investigation of sudden unintended acceleration in Toyota vehicles undertaken by NHTSA;
2. Toyota's cooperation with such investigation; and,
3. The agency's efforts to update its standards, and in particular, its accelerator control standard (FMVSS 124), as well as any plans to initiate a rulemaking on brake-override systems in vehicles with electronic throttles.

Please produce the requested information and documents to the Committee by February 12, 2010. An attachment to this letter provides additional information on how to respond to the Committee's request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Anne Tindall with the Committee staff at (202) 226-2424.

The Honorable David L. Strickland

January 28, 2010

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Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman



Bart Stupak
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

cc: The Honorable Greg Walden, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

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January 28, 2010

Mr. Yoshimi Inaba
President and COO
Toyota Motor North America, Inc.
601 13th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Inaba:

The Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Committee on Energy and Commerce will hold a hearing on February 25, 2010, to examine persistent consumer complaints of sudden unintended acceleration in vehicles manufactured by Toyota Motor Corporation.

According to data compiled by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), sudden acceleration events in Toyota vehicles have led to 19 deaths in the past decade, nearly twice the number of deaths associated with similar events in cars manufactured by all other automakers combined. In the past few months, Toyota has issued two recalls covering millions of vehicles based on concerns over sudden unintended acceleration. On January 26, 2010, Toyota took the unprecedented step of halting U.S. sales and production of eight models. Yesterday, Toyota announced that it added one million additional vehicles to a recall issued in the fall because floor mats could jam their accelerator pedals.

Committee staff met with Toyota representatives yesterday to discuss these issues. While this discussion was helpful, it left important questions unanswered, including when Toyota learned about this serious safety defect and what actions the company took to investigate and resolve the hazard. To assist the Committee with its investigation, we request that Toyota produce the following information and documents related to Toyota vehicles sold in the United States:

1. All reports (including consumer complaints; warranty reports; field reports; and reports of death, injury, or property damage) received by the company since January 1, 2000, related to incidents which are alleged or proven to have been caused by the sudden unintended acceleration of a Toyota vehicle;

2. All analyses undertaken since January 1, 2000, of consumer complaints; warranty reports; field reports; and reports of death, injury, or property damage related to incidents which are alleged or proven to have been caused by the sudden unintended acceleration of a Toyota vehicle and all analyses of internal or external tests of electronic components related to allegations of sudden unintended acceleration in Toyota vehicles;
3. All presentations to senior corporate management, or government agencies, relating to reports or complaints of sudden unintended acceleration in Toyota vehicles since January 1, 2000;
4. All internal communications, including e-mail, to or from senior corporate management, that relate to the company's January 26, 2010, decision to halt production and sale of eight Toyota models;
5. All Technical Service Bulletins issued since January 1, 2000, relating to sudden unintended acceleration, acceleration pedals, or electronic throttle control; and;
6. A timeline from January 1, 2000, until the present, for each model for which Toyota has received consumer complaints; warranty reports; field reports; or reports of death, injury, or property damage related to sudden unintended acceleration, including the following information:
 - a. The date upon which the company first became aware of any allegation of sudden unintended acceleration;
 - b. All actions the company undertook to examine the allegation, the dates upon which those actions were taken, and all conclusions arising from those examinations;
 - c. The date upon which the company identified the defect responsible for sudden unintended acceleration or the date upon which the company determined that no defect was present;
 - d. The date of any corrective actions, such as recalls or repairs, taken to address the alleged sudden unintended acceleration.

For purposes of this request, "senior corporate management" includes all company officials at the level of Vice President and above for Toyota Motor North America, Inc.; Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.; and Toyota Motor Corporation.

Please produce the requested information and documents to the Committee by February 12, 2010. In addition, please inform Committee staff by February 4, 2010, as to whether you will provide the requested information voluntarily. An attachment to this letter provides additional information on how to respond to the Committee's request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Anne Tindall with the Committee staff at (202) 226-2424.

Mr. Yoshimi Inaba
January 28, 2010
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Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman



Bart Stupak
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations

Attachment

- cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
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