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CHAIRMAN

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House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2010

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The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

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

Dear Secretary LaHood and Administrator Strickland,

As the Vice Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I'm writing to express my serious concerns with reports that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has received at least seven complaints within the last two weeks from Toyota owners alleging that they experienced sudden unintended acceleration after their vehicles underwent recall service to modify pedals and replace floor mats.

These reports are extremely troubling and reinforce the serious questions raised in Congressional hearings about the true cause of the sudden unintended acceleration problems in Toyota vehicles and about the effectiveness of the recalls in ensuring the safety of Americans on the road. As you know, in the February 23, 2010 Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on the response of Toyota and NHTSA to sudden unintended acceleration, I raised concerns about the fact that, despite evidence to the contrary, Toyota has continually insisted that the sudden unintended acceleration problems are only the result of entrapment of the accelerator pedal by floor mats or "sticky" pedals, and are not caused by electronic defects. I also raised serious concerns about Toyota's and NHTSA's insufficient responses to the problems of sudden unintended acceleration and about the implications this has for Americans' safety.

If these allegations are true, these complaints provide more evidence that the problems with sudden unintended acceleration in Toyota vehicles are likely

not restricted to entrapment of pedals by floor mats and "sticky" pedals, and that Toyota electronics may be playing a role in the problems. These complaints also highlight the urgent need for thorough and credible investigations to definitively identify *all* possible causes of sudden unintended acceleration in Toyota vehicles and to identify and implement effective solutions in all affected Toyota vehicles as soon as possible.

Please provide me with any information you have on the complaints of sudden unintended acceleration in serviced Toyota vehicles. Please also provide me with detailed information on the steps NHTSA is taking to review Toyota electronics to determine whether they are a potential cause of sudden unintended acceleration and to ensure effective repairs in all affected vehicles. Please provide this information to me by close of business on March 5, 2010.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Bruce Braley  
Member of Congress