



Nonprofit Publisher
of Consumer Reports

May 10, 2010

Senator John D. Rockefeller IV, Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Discussion Draft, "Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 2010"

Dear Chairman Rockefeller:

Consumers Union, the non-profit publisher of Consumer Reports® magazine, writes to you in support of your proposed legislation, the Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 2010 (MVSA). This bill would give the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) critical new authorities and resources to better fulfill its mission, and it addresses certain gaps in our auto safety system highlighted by recent problems with Toyota vehicles and sudden unintended acceleration (SUA).

The MVSA would, among other things: require NHTSA to promulgate safety standards regarding vehicle stopping distance/brake override, pedal placement, electronic systems performance, and keyless ignition systems; require all future vehicles to be equipped with event data recorders (EDRs) that capture critical data points; increase NHTSA's enforcement power by removing the cap on civil penalties; make improvements to NHTSA's public safety complaints database; and give the agency greater funding for its vital work. We are grateful that many of the bill's provisions incorporate recommendations that Consumers Union made earlier this year in light of the Toyota SUA problems (see: <http://blogs.consumerreports.org/cars/2010/02/consumers-union-calls-for-changes-to-strengthen-us-carsafety-net.html>).

We applaud your leadership on this issue, and look forward to working with you as this critical legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen Bloom".

Ellen Bloom
Director, Federal Policy and Washington Office
Consumers Union

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ami V. Gadhia".

Ami V. Gadhia
Policy Counsel
Consumers Union



May 10, 2010

Honorable Henry Waxman, Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Bobby Rush, Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection, Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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