October 22, 2007

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress
509 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20525

Dear Representative Blackburn:

I am writing in response to your letter of October 22, 2007, regarding the Accelerator Control System in certain 2007 model year Toyota Tacoma vehicles. I appreciate your bringing the concerns of your constituents to my attention as well as the opportunity to provide you with some information on this matter.

As you may know, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has received consumer complaints regarding the Accelerator Control System. While NHTSA has not opened a formal investigation, the agency is in the process of conducting a confirmation test for Federal Motor Vehicles Safety Standards (FMVSS) 124 Accelerator Control Systems. The FMVSS 124 standard establishes requirements for the return of a vehicle's throttle to the idle position when the driver removes the actuating force from the accelerator control, or in the event of a severance or disconnection in the accelerator control system. (In other words, the throttle control must return to an idle position when either the driver removes his/her foot from the pedal or in the event of a failure of the throttle control system)

In preparation for the FMVSS 124 Accelerator Control Systems testing, NHTSA sent Toyota an Information Request letter on September 26, 2007. I have enclosed a copy of this letter for your information. NHTSA also recently sent us copies of the Vehicle Owner Questionnaires (VOQs) submitted to the agency, which are also included herein.

Toyota is committed to ensuring that our vehicles meet the highest safety standards, and we are fully cooperating with the NHTSA to support their testing efforts. Please be assured that in addition to working with the agency, Toyota is also conducting a full investigation into these complaints. If your constituents have concerns they should feel free to contact the Toyota Customer Assistance Center at – 1-888-270-9371.

If you should need more information, we would welcome the opportunity to come to your office and provide you with a personal briefing. Please feel free to contact me or Mark Johnson in our office.

Sincerely,