October 19, 2007

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Rayburn HOB 2125
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I write to bring a critical public safety issue to your attention on behalf of my constituents in Middle and West Tennessee, and to request the Committee on Energy and Commerce investigate the matter and determine an appropriate response.

According to an investigation by journalists at WSMV TV in Nashville, a growing number of drivers across the country are experiencing problems that raise serious safety concerns related to the 2007 Toyota Tacoma, including a "lurching effect" when a driver approaches a complete stop, and unexpected acceleration when a driver applies the brakes. At least twenty drivers have filed complaints with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in response to similar malfunctions, and former NHTSA Director Joan Claybrook has responded to the investigation by stating: "I think what you've encountered here is a safety defect of significant proportions."

Though NHTSA is in the initial process of investigating the matter, I respectfully request the House Energy and Commerce Committee (and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection specifically) to ensure that the Administration is taking the appropriate steps to notify the American public regarding any potential safety issue with the Tacoma.

Thank you very much in advance, and I look forward to working with you on this important matter going forward.

Sincerely,

Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Bobby Rush
The Honorable Joe Barton
The Honorable Cliff Stearns

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