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Springfield, MO
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4/2/2014

DAVID J. FRIEDMAN, Administrator
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1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, West Building
Washington, DC 20590

APR 11 2014

You are, I believe, responsible for auto safety. I note with interest NHTSA's recent announcement mandating rear-view cameras for all cars. I applaud this as a major improvement! It will, without doubt save many lives and avoid many accidents! My 2007 Buick Lucerne has rear sensors which provide warning beeps when I get too close to any obstacle when backing; and these have proven very valuable! The cameras should be even more effective!

In this vein, I have another improvement in auto safety for your consideration, which I believe to be at least as effective as the cameras in the reduction of accidents and personal injuries. I realize that you have many important functions at NHTSA than to consider personal ideas; but I have called NHTSA's posted internet number; attempted to find an appropriate email site at safecar.gov; et al; without success. I am hoping that you will be able to direct my letter to the appropriate department within NHTSA for consideration.

I have been driving for over 60 years, in both city and interstate situations; and in all types of weather. I've seen a number of accidents which might have been avoided with better visibility and attention. I have no solution for inattention; but I do have for visibility! Today, most more expensive cars have automatic headlights; most less-expensive cars do not! I submit that headlights serve two very important functions: one, for the driver to see where he or she is going; and two, to see and avoid oncoming traffic! Too many drivers are guided only by #1; learning about #2 the hard way!

Further complicating #2, I've heard that some 25-30% of drivers (more in retirement communities) are beginning to develop cataracts! I can personally attest to diminishing vision due to cataracts, Many continue driving too long before their cataracts are surgically removed and their sight restored!

Automatic headlights in ALL cars will greatly facilitate visibility and accident reduction in this age group; and, to a lesser but still significant extent, increasing attentiveness in all drivers!

Thanking you for your consideration.

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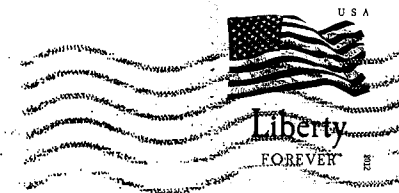
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