

Patrick M. Raher  
Partner  
Hogan & Lovells US LLP  
555 Thirteenth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

MAR 18 2011

Re: Request for Confidential Treatment Mercedes-Benz's Presentation PE 10-017

Dear Mr. Raher:

This letter responds to your July 27, 2010 request for confidential treatment for Daimler AG and Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (Mercedes) information submitted to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in the above referenced investigation. You request that these materials be granted confidential treatment indefinitely.

I have reviewed your submission, including the materials that you claim are entitled to confidential treatment and the arguments that you assert in support of your claim. While I have not reached a conclusion regarding each individual argument that you assert, I conclude the materials for which you requested confidential treatment are entitled to such treatment pursuant to Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(4).

The materials granted confidential treatment will be protected indefinitely.

This grant of confidential treatment is subject to certain conditions. The information may be disclosed under 49 CFR 512.22 based upon newly discovered or changed facts, and you must inform the agency of any changed circumstances that may affect the protection of the information. 49 CFR 512.10. If necessary, you will be notified prior to the release of any information under the procedures established by our regulations. 49 CFR 512.22(b). Furthermore, this information may be disclosed if such disclosure would be in the public interest, pursuant to the procedures established in 49 CFR 512.23.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed By**

Otto G. Matheke, III  
Senior Attorney

