

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 8, 2014

Mr. David J. Friedman
Deputy Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, West Building
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Friedman:

We share the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) desire to see legislation enacted that ensures open safety recalls are repaired on rental cars before a consumer gets behind the wheel.

Along with Senators Schumer and others, we have introduced legislation that would require rental companies to ground cars subject to safety recall until the safety defect that led to the recall has been remedied. Former Administrator David Strickland testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance in May of last year to express the agency's favorable views on S. 921, the Raechel and Jacqueline Houck Safe Rental Car Act. Since that time, on September 16, 2014, we introduced a slightly modified version of that legislation, S. 2819, to reflect changes agreed to by one automotive manufacturer, General Motors.

At a September 16, 2014 hearing before the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance, a witness representing the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers (Alliance) testified that despite the support of one of the association's largest member companies, the Alliance remains opposed to the modified legislation, S. 2819, in its current form. The Alliance was asked to suggest language it could support. That suggested language is enclosed.

We request that the agency provide views and analysis of the Alliance proposal, particularly in comparison to S. 2819 and the agency's own proposals to require the grounding of rental cars subject to open safety recall. The agency should provide this feedback by October 27, 2014 so it can be included in the record for the September 16, 2014 hearing.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

Enclosure