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RALPH M. HALL, TEXAS
MICHAEL SILIRAKIS, FLORIDA
FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN
CLIFF STEARNS, FLORIDA
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MIKE ROGERS, MICHIGAN
DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, IDAHO
JOHN SULLIVAN, OKLAHOMA

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

JOE BARTON, TEXAS
CHAIRMAN

October 5, 2004

JOHN D. DINGELL, MICHIGAN
HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
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BUD ALBRIGHT, STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Deborah Platt Majoras
Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20580

Dear Chairman Majoras:


The Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection of the Committee on Energy and Commerce conducted a hearing on Wednesday, September 22, 2004, entitled "Repairing the 21st Century Car: Is Technology Locking the Consumer Out?" The Democratic Members of the Committee asked that the Federal Trade Commission be invited to testify at that hearing, but that request was denied. In response, the Democratic Members of the Committee have requested that at least one additional day of hearings be held regarding the same matter, pursuant to clause 2(j)(1) of Rule XI of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, so that the Federal Trade Commission and perhaps other witnesses may have an opportunity to be heard.

As you know, the Subcommittee had planned to conduct a second hearing on Friday, October 8, 2004, to comply with the request under House rule XI. I have been informed, however, that the hearing has been postponed. While I remain hopeful that you will be permitted to testify during at least one additional day of hearings pursuant to the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I am uncertain when that opportunity will be granted. In the interim, pursuant to the unanimous consent request made by Chairman Stearns during the September 22, 2004, hearing, please provide to the Committee the views of the Federal Trade Commission regarding H.R. 2735, "The Motor Vehicle Owners' Right to Repair Act."

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Jonathan Cordone, Democratic Counsel to the Committee on Energy and Commerce at (202) 226-3400.

The Honorable Deborah Platt Majoras
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Sincerely,



JOHN D. DINGELL
RANKING MEMBER

Attachment

cc.: The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Cliff Stearns, Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection

The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection

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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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CHAIRMAN

September 22, 2004

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BUD ALBRIGHT, STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Cliff Stearns
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade,
and Consumer Protection
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In the spirit of full, complete, and open consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and pursuant to clause 2(j)(1) of Rule XI of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, we are writing to request that at least one additional day of hearings be conducted on "Repairing the 21st Century Car: Is Technology Locking the Consumer Out?" and that we be permitted to call witnesses of our choosing at such hearing.

These are important matters, and the credibility of this Subcommittee's examination of them is not helped by unbalanced or incomplete hearings. We expect that the testimony of additional witnesses will improve the Subcommittee's hearing record substantially.

For example, the Minority requested that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) be invited, but our request was rejected. The FTC's views on matters of consumer protection would be invaluable to the Committee's consideration of this entire issue, as well as relevant legislative proposals. We note that one such proposal, H.R. 2735, "The Motor Vehicle Owners' Right to Repair Act of 2003," requires the FTC to create a substantial new regulatory regime.

We appreciate your immediate attention to our request and look forward to setting a mutually acceptable time and place for the additional hearing to hear testimony from witnesses that we have selected. As always, we look forward to working constructively with you on these matters.

Sincerely,

John D. Dingell
John D. Dingell

Edward J. Markey
Edward J. Markey

Edolphus Towns
Edolphus Towns

Sherrod Brown
Sherrod Brown

Peter Deutsch
Peter Deutsch

Anna G. Eshoo
Anna G. Eshoo

Eliot L. Engel
Eliot L. Engel

Gene Green
Gene Green

Fed Strickland
Fed Strickland

Lois Capps
Lois Capps

Christopher J. Bean
Christopher J. Bean

Jim Davis
Jim Davis

Hilda L. Solis
Hilda L. Solis

Henry A. Waxman
Henry A. Waxman

Rick Boucher
Rick Boucher

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Frank Pallone, Jr.

Bart Gordon
Bart Gordon

Bobby L. Rush
Bobby L. Rush

Bart Stupak
Bart Stupak

Albert R. Wynn
Albert R. Wynn

Karen McCarthy
Karen McCarthy

Diana DeGette
Diana DeGette

Michael F. Doyle
Michael F. Doyle

Tom Allen
Tom Allen

Jan Schakowsky
Jan Schakowsky

Charles A. Gonzalez
Charles A. Gonzalez