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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
FACSIMILE (202) 225-4784
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

www.oversight.house.gov

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February 11, 2010

Mr. Akio Toyoda
President and CEO
Toyota Motor Corporation
1, Toyota-cho
Toyota, Aichi 471-8571, Japan

Sent Electronically

Dear Mr. Toyoda:

As you may know, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, of which I am the Ranking Member, is one of a number of Congressional Committees seeking to learn more about multiple safety concerns associated with Toyota vehicles. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has stated that a breakdown in communications between Toyota Japan and U.S. regulators may have delayed the delivery of vehicle based safety solutions.¹ Accordingly, we are interested in the causes of the breakdown in communications between Toyota and U.S. regulators, which Secretary LaHood referred to, and how the relationship between the United States federal government and your company can be improved to ensure the safety of the American public.

News reports from this morning suggest that you are delaying your visit to the United States until the beginning of March. Weather permitting; I would encourage you to consider moving up that timeline to coincide with the Congressional hearings that have been scheduled for the week of February 22nd. Surely, if Congress can be here, so can you and I have no doubt that you are eager to take advantage of the earliest opportunity possible to meet with lawmakers and have an open, candid and transparent dialogue with us, as well as the American people.

¹ *Toyota slow to react: LaHood*, CBC NEWS, Feb. 2, 2010, available at <http://www.cbc.ca/money/story/2010/02/02/toyota-january-sales.html#ixzz0fEpNk4uQ> (quoting Sec. LaHood, "If it had not been for the work of [the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration] pushing Toyota to make the recall, travelling to Japan, meeting with the top officials of Toyota in Japan and telling them that their folks in the United States seem to be a little safety deaf when it came to us talking to them, I don't know if the recall would be taking place.")

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In addition, I'd like to personally extend an invitation for you to meet with a bipartisan group of House and Senate Members. As an electronics manufacturer who worked with auto companies in the past, including Toyota, I would welcome the opportunity to hear directly from you and to help facilitate a bipartisan and bicameral dialogue with other lawmakers.

For years, Toyota has been a good corporate citizen, meeting consumer demand while providing opportunities for U.S. employees and small businesses alike. As such, I am sure you share my interest in understanding how these recent safety-related recalls occurred, preventing similar situations in the future, and renewing consumer confidence in Toyota products.

I look forward to having the opportunity to discuss these matters with you in person in the coming weeks. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me directly or you can contact Kristina Moore or John Ohly with the Committee staff at 202-225-5074.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Edolphus Towns, Chairman