

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade  
Hearing on “Examining Ways to Improve Vehicle and Roadway Safety”  
October 21, 2015**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

A car isn't just how you get around when you are from Michigan. It's a neighbor's job, it's a fiber that connects our communities, and the backbone of our state's economy. We take great pride in the industry's inventiveness, resilience, and creativity. It is what has helped the industry become what it is today - a global leader in vehicle safety, comfort, and superior driving experiences.

Over the past few years, we have seen the best of what the auto industry has to offer. It's no secret that I am an optimist and believe that the future is bright for the auto industry, for Michigan, and this country. Unfortunately, we have also seen safety shortcomings and dishonesty along the way. I am glad we are here today to start talking about making fixes to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and to the industry to ensure that cars are as safe as humanly possible.

We are in the midst of an exciting time of automotive ingenuity. What was once science fiction is now becoming a reality. This innovation is to be applauded, not only because it will revolutionize driving, but because of what it means for vehicle safety, the environment, and most importantly saved lives.

The staff discussion draft that we will review today is a starting point to achieve those ends. It includes proposals intended to foster greater vehicle and roadway safety for motorists now and in the years to come. Some pieces, like having a corporate officer responsible for safety compliance, aren't new. Other ideas, like how to best ensure cybersecurity, may need to further evolve. It is encouraging that the industry is setting up an Information Sharing and Analysis Center. There is also talk of forming a working group to address cybersecurity best practices.

The draft seeks to address concerns around recall awareness and incentivizes automakers to invest in new safety technologies that will save more lives. It also includes plans that help modernize the work and mission of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to ensure that the agency is fully capable of keeping pace with the innovation and progress of the industry in the 21st century.

This is a life-saving endeavor. I look forward to a thoughtful and engaging dialogue on the merits of each proposal, and what additional considerations should be made by this committee. While we have many witnesses today, I also want to invite everyone with an interest to give us feedback on how we can improve the legislation. The Energy and Commerce Committee is unwavering in its commitment to ensure that the auto industry and the government are doing everything they can to make cars safer and protect the lives of the driving public. Our work continues to improve safety for drivers.

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