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February 11, 2010

The Honorable Edolphus Towns
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Towns:

In light of the decision to postpone the hearing, "Toyota Gas Pedals: Is the Public at Risk?," and the additional time it has afforded us to reassess the witnesses invited to testify, I respectfully request the Committee extend an invitation to Mr. Akio Toyoda to testify on February 24, 2010.

Given the gravity and complexity of the challenges facing Toyota and U.S. regulators, it is essential that this be a fact based hearing that gets to the core of the breakdown which has brought about significant consumer confusion and the recall of millions of vehicles. Our preliminary investigations, as well as press accounts, have revealed evidence that breakdowns in communication between Toyota Japan and U.S. regulators may have been a factor in delaying the delivery of a solution to the American public.¹ While an essential witness, Mr. Yoshimi Inaba, head of Toyota North America, may not be capable of fully explaining what caused the breakdown and reluctance of Toyota Japan to act when they were first aware of evidence of possible defects causing sudden unintended acceleration in their vehicles.

Mr. Akio Toyoda, President of Toyota Motors, has expressed his desire to visit the United States and speak with lawmakers.² As a witness before the Committee, Mr. Toyoda would have a highly credible forum to explain both how this situation developed and how his company is working to address the many concerns. Therefore, I respectfully

¹ Kate Linbaugh, et. al, *Secretive Culture Led Toyota Astra*, WALL ST. J., Feb. 8, 2010 available at http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704820904575055733096312238.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_L_EFTTopStories.

² *Toyoda to testify in Congress*, THE STRAITS TIMES, Feb. 10, 2010 available at http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/Money/Story/STISStory_488940.html.

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request the Committee extend an invitation to the President and CEO of Toyota Motors, Mr. Akio Toyoda, to testify at our February 24 hearing.

I have written to Mr. Toyoda encouraging him to coordinate his expected visit to the United States to coincide with our scheduled hearings as both lawmakers and the American people are eager to hear directly from him. However, should Mr. Toyoda not come to the United States until March, as news reports suggest, it would be prudent to consider scheduling a follow-up hearing that includes both Mr. Toyoda as well as Bush Administration officials, former Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters, and former Administrators of the National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration, Nicole Nason, and David Kelly.

Finally, if we are not receiving the cooperation and transparency this Committee and the American people are demanding from Toyota, I would fully support the issuance of a subpoena. Whether it is for a microprocessor engineer or the top executive, we have a duty to determine what Toyota knew, when they knew it and if they met their full obligation of disclosure to U.S. regulators and the American people.

While our primary duty is oversight of the government and we can hold them accountable of what they knew or should have known, we cannot hold them responsible for what may have been withheld from them.

If you have any questions regarding this request please do not hesitate to contact me directly, or Kristina Moore or John Ohly with the Committee staff at 202-225-5074. I thank you in advance for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member