

**Carol (Cally) Houck, Mother of Raechel and Jacqueline Houck  
Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety  
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety  
Center for Auto Safety  
Consumer Action  
Consumer Federation of America  
Consumers Union  
National Association of Consumer Advocates  
Trauma Foundation**

May 9, 2013

Honorable Jay Rockefeller, Chairman  
Honorable John Thune, Ranking Member  
United States Senate  
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Support for the Raechel and Jacqueline Houck Safe Rental Car Act**

Dear Chairman Rockefeller and Ranking Member Thune:

On behalf of each of our organizations, we write in support of the Raechel and Jacqueline Houck Safe Rental Car Act, sponsored by Sens. Charles Schumer, Lisa Murkowski, Barbara Boxer and Claire McCaskill. This bipartisan legislation will require that rental car companies ground vehicles that are subject to a safety recall until they are fixed.

This measure is named in memory of Raechel and Jacqueline Houck, daughters of Carol (Cally) Houck, who were killed by a rental car that was recalled due to a defect in a steering component, which caused an under-hood fire and loss of steering control. The car had not been repaired before it was rented out. Raechel and Jacqueline were ages 24 and 20.

In addition to our organizations, the legislation is also supported by all the major rental car companies and the American Car Rental Association, which represents the major rental car companies and most of the smaller rental car companies. To have leading national auto safety organizations and the rental car industry in agreement on legislation that would place rental car companies under federal safety regulation for the first time is truly historic. Other supporters include the Truck Renting and Leasing Association, the American Automobile Association, and State Farm Insurance Company.

This legislation represents a major improvement in auto safety, particularly since rental car companies are the largest purchasers of new vehicles in the nation. We hope that with

enactment of this measure, consumers who rent or purchase rental cars, either as new or used vehicles, can do so with confidence that the vehicles do not have latent safety defects that are subject to a safety recall.

We respectfully request that you support the bill and work diligently with us, the sponsors, the rental car industry, the AAA and other supporters to enact the legislation this year. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Carol (Cally) Houck, Mother of Raechel and Jacqueline Houck

Rosemary Shahan, President, Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety

Clarence Ditlow, Executive Director, Center for Auto Safety

Jacqueline S. Gillan, President, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety

Ken McElowney, Executive Director, Consumer Action

Ami V. Gadhia, Senior Policy Counsel, Consumers Union

Jack Gillis, Public Affairs Director, Consumer Federation of America

Ira Rheingold, Executive Director, National Association of Consumer Advocates

Ben Kelley, Director, Injury Control Policy, Trauma Foundation

Cc: Sen. Charles Schumer  
Members of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation