

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 11, 2024

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Chair  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
2322A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone:

I cordially request a hearing with the full committee or relevant subcommittee to address and gain insight into the issue of excessively bright automotive headlights and their negative impact on driver and pedestrian safety. I and many Americans find automotive headlights to often be excessively bright, endangering drivers and pedestrians navigating roads at night.

A 2001 report by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that approximately 30 percent of respondents reported experiencing "disturbing" nighttime headlight glare. Furthermore, a 2008 NHTSA report confirmed that headlight glare is an important safety issue, not to mention the thousands of complaints submitted to NHTSA to the same effect.

I am aware that on February 15, 2022, NHTSA issued a final rule allowing automakers to install adaptive driving beam headlights in new vehicles, which is a step in the right direction. However, while this rule may provide some relief in time, it does not implement any enforceable requirements, nor does it address the problematic headlights on the tens of thousands of existing vehicles. I would like to know more about NHTSA's slow and ineffectual actions to address this problem that has been escalating for decades, endangering millions of Americans.

In the interest of improving health and safety for all Americans that use our roads, I respectfully request this hearing as a means of creating a safer driving environment for all. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



---

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress