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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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March 8, 2010

Mr. Yoshimi Inaba  
President and CEO  
Toyota Motor North America, Inc.  
601 13<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Inaba:

An article in today's *Los Angeles Times* reports that in the fall of 2006, veteran Toyota employees sent a memorandum to Toyota senior management alerting them to concerns these employees had regarding the safety of Toyota vehicles.<sup>1</sup> As reported by the *Times*, this memorandum stated that the employees believed Toyota was taking dangerous safety shortcuts in order to lower costs and boost production.<sup>2</sup> The employees stated that they were concerned that "the processes which are essential for producing safe cars" might be "ultimately ignored."<sup>3</sup> Finally, the employees warned Toyota that a failure to act could "become a great problem that involves the company's survival."<sup>4</sup>

Unfortunately, according to the *Times*, the employees said that Toyota completely ignored their memo and never responded to it.<sup>5</sup>

The Toyota employees' safety memo now seems strikingly prescient. If senior Toyota officials ignored important safety concerns raised by their own employees, it calls into question Toyota's corporate priorities and its commitment to safety.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, with jurisdiction over "any matter." Under

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<sup>1</sup> *Toyota Workers Raised Safety Concerns With Bosses In 2006 Memo*, Los Angeles Times (Mar. 8, 2010).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

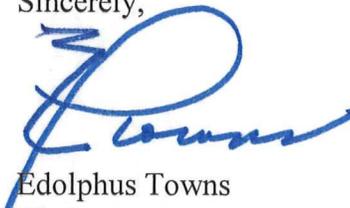
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Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee is continuing its investigation into the circumstances surrounding the recent recall of millions of Toyota vehicles due to sudden unintended acceleration. As part of this inquiry, the Committee is looking into whether Toyota ignored important warnings regarding the safety of its vehicles.

To aid the Committee in its investigation, please deliver a copy of the memorandum referenced in the *Los Angeles Times* article to the Committee offices no later than noon on Wednesday, March 10, 2010. To facilitate delivery and review, we prefer that the memorandum be delivered in electronic format.

Should you have any questions about this request, please contact John Arlington or Kevin Barstow of the Committee staff at 202-225-5051.

Sincerely,



Edolphus Towns  
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Darrell Issa  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform