

JAMES P. MORAN
8TH DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

DEFENSE

INTERIOR

www.house.gov/moran



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

August 3, 2006

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2239 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4608
(202) 225-4376
FAX: (202) 225-0017

DISTRICT OFFICES:
333 N. FAIRFAX STREET
SUITE 201
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
(703) 971-4700
FAX: (703) 922-9436

1760 RESTON PARKWAY
SUITE 504
RESTON, VA 20190
(703) 481-4339
FAX: (703) 481-4338

Ms. Nicole Nason
Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Nason,

I congratulate you on your recent confirmation and would greatly appreciate an update on the status of the driver distraction study and your timetable for completing it.

Last year, the Fiscal 2006 Transportation, Treasury, HUD, the Judiciary and the District of Columbia Appropriations Act (PL 109-115) directed the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to "to consolidate current knowledge on driver distraction for use by policy makers that would assist state and local governments to formulate effective policies, regulations and laws." I was pleased to have helped initiate this requirement.

Driver distraction plays a significant role in an increasing number of traffic injuries and fatalities. While it appears to be particularly dangerous for our youth, it is a public health hazard without age barriers that is often misunderstood by both the public and by state and local policy makers. It extends well beyond cell phones and is exacerbated by an ever expanding and heavily marketed array of technological options that are available for use in our cars.

As state and local jurisdictions attempt to confront this issue with regulations and laws, I believe it is critical that any public policy response to driver distraction be guided by the most current and accurate research. NHTSA can play a critical role in his effort. It is my sincere hope that your work will condense and make accessible the latest research findings to help guide state and local jurisdictions to take effective actions. Your leadership in helping to insure that this important project is completed in a timely manner will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you again for your assistance in this matter.

Yours truly,


James P. Moran

Cc: Rep. Joe Knollenberg
Rep. John W. Olver