

**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**

September 18, 2012

Honorable Jay Rockefeller, Chairman
Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ranking Member
United States Senate
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
Senate Hart Office Building, Room 531 and Senate Russell Office Building, Room 284
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairman Rockefeller and Ranking Member Hutchison:

On behalf of each of our organizations, we write in support of the revised Raechel and Jacqueline Houck Safe Rental Car Act, which 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 being recalled due to a defect in a steering component that caused an under-hood fire and loss of steering control. Raechel and Jacqueline were ages 24 and 20.

We have worked diligently with Senators Boxer, Schumer, McCaskill and Blunt, and their staff, and Counsel for the Commerce Committee, and have reached an agreement with the rental car industry that rental car companies will be regulated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, for the first time in history.

This historic agreement will be 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 rental 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 McEldowney, 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, Board Member, Trauma Foundation