

May 8, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Chair
The Honorable Ted Cruz, Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz:

As the nation's leading roadway safety organizations committed to ending the intolerable fatalities and injuries caused by motor vehicle crashes, we urge you to take swift action to confirm an Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

In 2021, traffic fatalities climbed to a 16-year high with 42,939 people killed on U.S. roads. This is 10,000 more lives lost than a decade ago. An additional 2.5 million people were injured, which is a more than nine percent increase over 2020, according to NHTSA. Recent projected estimates for 2022 demonstrate that these figures remain egregiously high. It is essential that a new NHTSA Administrator is confirmed and focused on pursuing and implementing countermeasures that will work to address this public health and safety crisis.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, Pub. L. 117-58), provided funding and a number of tools for NHTSA to move aggressively to prevent roadway fatalities and injuries from both a human behavioral and regulatory standpoint. Additionally, safety improvements required in the Moving Ahead for Progress in 21st Century (MAP-21) Act (Pub. L. 112-141) and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub. L. 114-94) are woefully overdue. NHTSA needs a confirmed Administrator as soon as possible to implement these safety measures with urgency and protect the traveling public.

Sincerely,



ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY



cc: Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation Members