



February 8, 2022

**BY EMAIL**

Kirt Walker, CEO  
Nationwide Insurance  
walkerk@nationwide.com

**Re: The LED Fraud**

Dear Kirt Walker,

The Motor Vehicle Safety Act was passed by Congress in response to rising death rates in America involving motor vehicles. This act created the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration. NHTSA published the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards in 1967 and Section 108 regulates vehicle lighting systems. The passage of the Motor Vehicle Safety Act dramatically reduced the number of injuries and deaths due to vehicle accidents by prohibiting the auto makers from designing unsafe vehicles.

Today, we find ourselves in the situation where the auto industry is again putting Americans at risk of injury and death due their use of LED lighting systems. LEDs have never been approved for use as vehicle lighting by NHTSA, LED lighting systems on vehicles are thus illegal, and the auto makers are in violation of the Motor Vehicle Safety Act.


One of our members has compiled video of his own driving experiences that show how truly dangerous LED headlights are. Video: <https://youtu.be/sQHpkG7UhA>







Our petition to ban blinding LED headlights has tens of thousands of signatures. <https://www.change.org/p/u-s-dot-ban-blinding-headlights-and-save-lives> Here are a few recent comments from the petition.

 **ryan hansmann**  
4 days ago


I am a professional driver and the harsh white light makes working dangerous and hard to see while driving at night.




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 **joseph johnson**  
6 days ago

hate being blinded by headlights




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 **Sherrie Britton**  
7 days ago

Th se headlights are dangerous. They should definitely be banned.

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Nationwide is a member of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The IIHS is supposed to be providing the insurance industry with guidance and recommendations that will reduce vehicle crashes. Improved safety reduces insurance company expenses.

In the case of LED headlights, however, IIHS is failing to provide valid information to the insurance companies. IIHS is not using proper measurement techniques for LED headlights and are thus arriving at invalid conclusions. IIHS promotes blinding LED headlights because they are basing their results on outdated measurement data. LED headlights have never been approved by NHTSA, so why is the IIHS promoting the use of illegal headlights? The false claims by IIHS about LED headlights are negatively impacting the finances of the insurance companies.

We urge Nationwide to take the following actions:

- 1) Demand that IIHS accurately measure LED headlight luminance, which means using near-field measurements in a laboratory at approximately 1 micrometer from the surface.
- 2) Demand that IIHS post on its website that LED headlights, both OEM and aftermarket, are illegal.

3) Demand that NHTSA recall all vehicles with LED headlights.

Sincerely,

*Mark Baker*

Mark Baker

President

Soft Lights Foundation

[mbaker@softlights.org](mailto:mbaker@softlights.org)