

April 12, 2025

Dangerously Bright and Blue LED Headlights

Dear Member of the House of Representatives, U.S. Congress,

On behalf of the Soft Lights Foundation, Representative Mike Thompson of California has issued a call for a Congressional hearing on the impacts of LED headlights on public health and safety. Representative Thompson is now circulating a sign-on letter to members of Congress, which is included below.

As per 21 U.S.C. §§ 360hh - 360ss, Congress has directed the US Food and Drug Administration and NHTSA to establish and maintain a liaison to test and evaluate electronic products that emit electromagnetic radiation, which includes the visible light emitted by LED headlights, and yet the FDA and NHTSA have not established any program to test and evaluate LED headlights and establish performance standards to ensure that LED headlights are safe and comfortable.

Over 70,000 individuals have signed the Soft Lights Foundation petition to ban blinding headlights. (<https://www.change.org/p/u-s-dot-ban-blinding-headlights-and-save-lives>). The petition signatures and comments have been submitted to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ("NHTSA"), and yet NHTSA has taken no steps to address the blinding headlight issue.

The Soft Lights Foundation has submitted multiple regulatory petitions to NHTSA to limit intensity and blue wavelength light, and yet NHTSA has either denied the petitions or ignored them. See (<https://www.softlights.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/NHTSA-Petition-to-Limit-Headlight-Intensity.pdf>) and (<https://www.softlights.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/NHTSA-Petition-to-Limit-CCT.pdf>).

The issue of unsafe LED headlights is a truly bipartisan issue with Republicans and Democrats, old and young, wealthy and poor, asking Congress to take steps to solve the issue. Please join Representative Thompson and other members of Congress by adding your name to the Headlights sign-on letter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark Baker

President

Soft Lights Foundation

mbaker@softlights.org

www.softlights.org

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Letter re Excessively Bright Headlights

Sending Office: Honorable Mike Thompson

Sent By: Declan.Hayes1@mail.house.gov

Dear Colleague,

Automobiles with excessively bright automotive headlights can negatively impact the safety of other drivers and make driving more dangerous for everyone. A 2001 report from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that 30 percent of respondents said they had experienced “disturbing” nighttime headlight glare. I, too, find that certain vehicles have excessively bright headlights which are problematic for other drivers when driving at night. The Radiation Control provisions of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) under 21 USC 360ii(a) direct the Secretary of the FDA to establish an electronic product radiation control program by, among other things, promulgating performance standards for electronic products. Under 21 USC 360kk(a) the Secretary of the FDA “shall by regulation prescribe performance standards for electronic products to control the emission of electronic product radiation from such products if he determines that such standards are necessary for the protection of the public health and safety.”

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued a new rule on February 15, 2022 allowing automakers to install adaptive driving beam headlights on new vehicles, as required by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These adaptive headlights use automatic headlight beam switching technology to shine less light on occupied areas of the road and more light on unoccupied areas, increasing the illumination of distant objects in the road without reducing the visibility of drivers in other vehicles. However, the NHTSA rule only allows the adaptive lights to be used; it will not require them to be installed.

Please join us in sending a bipartisan letter to Chair Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone urging the Committee on Energy and Commerce to hold a hearing on the issue of excessively bright automotive headlights.

If you have any questions, please contact Declan Hayes (declan.hayes1@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Thompson’s office. To sign on, please use this [Quill link](#).

Sincerely,
MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

[[DATE]]

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chair
Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
2322A Rayburn House Office
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Brett Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone:

We request a hearing with the full committee or relevant subcommittee to address the issue of excessively bright automotive headlights and their negative impact on driver and pedestrian safety. We share the concerns that many of our constituents have brought to us that automotive headlights are often excessively bright, endangering drivers and pedestrians navigating roads.

Reports from 2001 and 2008 by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) demonstrate both the significant impact excessively bright headlights have on safety as well as the relevance this issue has for millions of people. Although NHTSA's 2022 final rule indirectly considered the issue of excessive headlight intensity in new vehicles, more needs to be done to ensure that there are enforceable standards for the brightness and glare of modern headlights. Since these reports, the situation has only gotten worse.

We are concerned that NHTSA has failed to set a maximum upper limit on vehicle headlamp intensity and that further inaction is harming public safety. In the interest of improving health and safety for all Americans that use our roads, we request this hearing as a means of creating a safer driving environment for all. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

[[CLOSING]]

[[SIGNATURES as of April 12, 2025]]

REPUBLICANS

DEMOCRATS

Mike Thompson, CA
Judy Chu, CA
Mark Pocan, WI
Marie Perez, WA
Dwight Evans, PA