

December 6, 2025

BY EMAIL

The Honorable Ted Cruz, Chairman
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
The Honorable Members of the Committee
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Re: Defective LED Vehicle Headlamp Technology

Dear Chairman Cruz and Members of the Committee,

The most pressing and widespread matter regarding vehicle safety is the auto industry's pervasive use of Light Emitting Diode ("LED") headlamp technology. This technology has been demonstrated to be fundamentally defective as its use has created a major safety hazard for hundreds of millions of Americans.

As shown in the accompanying image, the switch to high-intensity, blue-rich LED light sources for vehicle headlamps has created an untenable safety risk for all drivers and pedestrians.



Besides creating a safety hazard, the non-replaceable, integrated nature of modern LED headlamp assemblies means that a simple failure can cost consumers thousands of dollars to replace, an undue financial burden that provides no demonstrated improvement to public safety or quality of life over previous lighting systems.

Under 49 U.S. Code § 30118 (Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Act), LED headlamp technology clearly qualifies as a defective technology. Each automaker and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) have a statutory duty to conduct an investigation into the health and safety impacts of using small source size, blue-rich, high-intensity light sources which operate with few or no restrictions on intensity (luminance) or spectral distribution (blue wavelength light).

The public outcry is massive and verifiable: The petition to ban blinding headlights reached 75,000 signatures in November 2025 and contains over 4,700 public comments submitted to NHTSA that describe the adverse health and safety impacts of LED headlamps.¹

The Soft Lights Foundation respectfully requests that the Committee use the opportunity at the January 14, 2026 “Pedal to the Policy: The Views of the American Auto Industry on the Upcoming Surface Transportation Reauthorization” hearing to ask why neither NHTSA nor any automaker has complied with 49 U.S. Code § 30118 and opened a formal defect investigation into this matter which affects all Americans.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark Baker
President

Soft Lights Foundation
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cc:

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¹ <https://www.change.org/p/u-s-dot-ban-blinding-headlights-and-save-lives>

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