

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 18, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Mica  
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Chairman Mica:

As the House of Representatives continues conference negotiations with the Senate on surface transportation reauthorization legislation, we would like to express our strong opposition to a provision in the Senate-passed version of the bill, S. 1813 "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act," that would require all new passenger vehicles sold in the U.S. to be equipped with event data recorders (EDRs), commonly known as "black boxes," beginning in 2015. Such a mandate represents a serious and unwarranted encroachment upon the driving public's right to privacy, and we urge you to ensure that it is not included in the final conference report.

EDRs are capable of capturing and retaining dozens of different categories of vehicle data that can be used to extrapolate driver behavior in the moments prior to and during crashes. While the devices were originally developed to aid automotive safety research, in recent years insurance companies, law enforcement agencies, and courts have frequently been using data from EDRs in post-accident investigations. Warrantless seizures by the police of EDR data in crash investigations are on the rise and have gone largely unchecked by the courts – an especially troubling practice since many drivers are unaware that their vehicles are equipped with EDRs. As of last year, thirteen states have already expressed concern over this trend by enacting laws that restrict the dissemination and use of information captured by EDRs.

Congress should not act to further erode Americans' right to privacy by mandating the installation of EDRs in passenger vehicles. We strongly urge you to oppose the adoption of Section 31406 of S. 1813 in the surface transportation conference agreement.

Sincerely,

  
JOHN C. FLEMING, M.D.  
Member of Congress

  
PAUL C. BROUN, M.D.  
Member of Congress

  
LEONARD LANCE  
Member of Congress

  
RAÚL LABRADOR  
Member of Congress



RON PAUL, M.D.  
Member of Congress



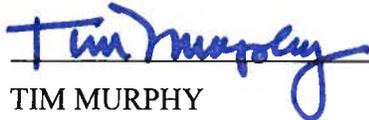
JOHN CAMPBELL  
Member of Congress



WALTER B. JONES  
Member of Congress



JOE WILSON  
Member of Congress



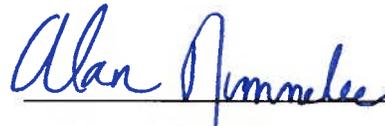
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JEFFREY M. LANDRY  
Member of Congress



KENNY MARCHANT  
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ALAN NUNNELEE  
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CHARLES W. BOUSTANY JR.  
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VERN BUCHANAN  
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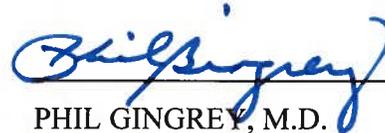
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STEVE SCALISE  
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STEVE CHABOT  
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ROSCOE G. BARTLETT  
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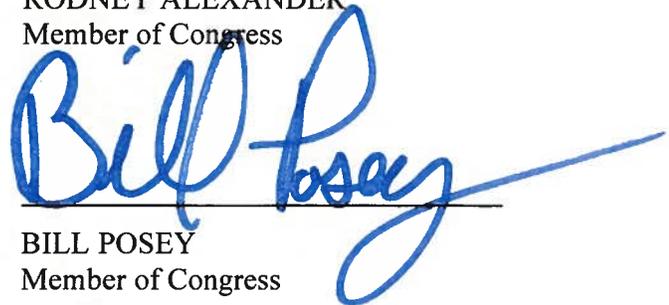
MARK AMODEI  
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RODNEY ALEXANDER  
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GLENN THOMPSON  
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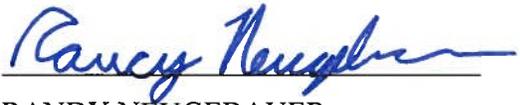
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