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August 23, 1998

National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration
Docket Management Room **PL401**
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
98 AUG 26 PM 2:52
DOCKET SECTION

RE: Docket No. **98-4124, Notice 1**

Gentlepersons:

This is written to offer my personal opinions about the DRL intensity study and proposed reductions for current and future automobiles.

First, please let me go on record as being against **DRLs**, based on what I have seen with GM cars and trucks (too bright, sometimes blinding) and in my several trips through Canada.

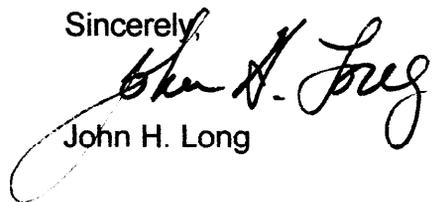
I don't think that daytime visibility without **DRLs** is a problem for most of us . . . and I guess I don't know the criteria for the systems. My guess: the government(s) decided once again that they know what's best for us . . . and that since we can't see well and won't turn on our lights in inclement weather or at dusk, therefore we must drive vehicles that are programmed to automatically overcome our "inadequacies" by having front lights on forever.

Yes, the GM and Canadian lights are too bright . . . and distracting. Doesn't this contradict their original purpose? By all means, cut down the intensity, or rig another system, such as the new Corvette's DRL "parking" lights. In Canada, the drivers think they are in good shape with front **DRLs** . . . but there are no rear **DRLs**, so driving in bad weather or at dusk, especially on expressways and turnpikes, is confounded when approaching unlighted cars from the rear.

Since we're going to continue to legislate passive vehicle safety -- not all bad, by any means -- then you're on the right track, if the news byte in **AutoWeek** is accurate. **Tone 'em down and add the rear glow, too.**

Belts, bags, beams, crush zones, energy absorption and five star ratings are all positive and expensive. But when are you going to figure out how to help us "normal" drivers deal with the idiots, drunk or sober, who put **all** of us in danger with their total disregard for rules of the road and law when they get in their vehicles?

Sincerely,


John H. Long