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To Whom It May Concern,

Reported in AutoWeek (August 17, 1998, pp. 8-9) is the heartening news that the NHTSA is considering reducing the intensity of Daytime Running Lights (DRLs) to 25% of their current intensity over the next four years. This is truly good news in my humble opinion. Living in the sunny southwest I have often questioned the value of such devices for several years, especially in the summer months when bright sunlight and glare are often a problem. Nothing seems to me to be more annoying than sitting in traffic with a huge pick-up truck or Suburban planted on your back bumper with their lights blinding you from behind. General Motors vehicles, and especially their truck models seem most offensive. DRLs also seem problematic in that many drivers seem to forget to turn their regular headlights on at night relying instead on the DRLs, leaving the back of their cars unlit from behind.

It may be a sign of the times, but as more vehicles with DRLs appear on the road more folks seem compelled to drive with their headlights, driving lights, foglamps or what have you on during daylight hours. Many seem to drive aggressively.

If the NHTSA wishes to only dim DRLs that is fine and certainly a step in the right direction, but think carefully about outlawing them altogether. Citizens ought to be able to use their headlights as conditions warrant not as vehicle manufacturers mandate.

Has any study linked headlight use and "road rage"?

Thank you for your consideration,



R. Sean Evans

P.S - This is in reference to Docket # 98-4124, notice 1