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February 23, 2010

Via FedEx and Facsimile

Mr. Henry A. Waxman, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Mr. Bart Stupak, Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6115

Gentlemen:

We are concerned about the Committee's comment in a letter to Mr. James Lentz, dated February 22, 2010, that Exponent's report "appears to have serious flaws." The two individuals referenced, Professor Michael Pecht and Mr. Neil Hanneman, have not identified any flaws in our work, but rather identified other areas of investigation to be pursued, some of which were already underway.

When Toyota released Exponent's report they described it as an interim report. We specifically state, both in the Executive Summary and in the Conclusions of our report, that "This report summarizes some of the testing that has been performed to date. Exponent's testing and analysis is ongoing."

It is important to note that at this stage of our work we neither claim to have looked at all the issues, nor to have opined on the cause of the incidents of unintended acceleration that have been reported. We agree that further work needs to be performed before we reach such opinions and further work is underway.

We released our interim report at Toyota's request because Toyota understood that the Committee was interested in the status of our ongoing work. We have made our staff available to the Committee staff to answer questions, and would be pleased to continue to do so. Also, should the Committee or its staff wish to visit our offices or test facilities in order to assist them in the review of this matter, we would be pleased to host such a meeting.

On the other hand, if the Committee would prefer that we not release any further progress reports until our investigation is complete, we will respond accordingly.

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It is counter-productive for us to release progress reports if we are to be criticized because they have not addressed all the issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul R. Johnston".

Paul R. Johnston, Ph.D.
President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Greg Walden, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Mr. James E. Lentz
President and Chief Operating Officer
Toyota Motor Sales