

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051  
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<https://oversight.house.gov>

September 11, 2020

The Honorable Emily W. Murphy  
Administrator  
General Services Administration  
1800 F Street NW  
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Administrator Murphy:

The Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy seeks information regarding General Services Administration (GSA) policies for the sale and lease of automobiles subject to recall. On behalf of other federal agencies, GSA buys tens of thousands of vehicles every year and leases them for the use of federal government employees. GSA also auctions thousands of vehicles every year for sale to the public.

GSA does not appear to require that recalls be repaired prior to leasing or selling vehicles. Despite previous attention to the issue, reports indicate that GSA continues to lease and auction vehicles with open recalls.<sup>1</sup>

As of July 7, 2020, nearly 15% of vehicles available for sale to the public on the GSA website were under recall (124 out of 852). Vehicle recalls are undertaken only due to safety defects or violations of federal motor vehicle safety standards. The urgency of safety recall repairs is underscored by the fact that these repairs are required to be performed for free by manufacturers for vehicle owners.

The defects that lead to recalls can lead to fatalities. Selling and leasing vehicles with unrepaired safety recalls puts the drivers, passengers, and others on the road at needless risk, and ignores the public health.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Recalled Cars Being Sold by Feds Now Have Warning Notices. Experts Say That's Not Enough*, WJLA (Feb. 10, 2020) (online at <https://wjla.com/news/spotlight-on-america/recalled-cars-being-sold-by-feds-now-have-warning-notices-experts-say-thats-not-enough>).

<sup>2</sup> *Family Sues General Motors After Indy Man Dies Saving 3-Year-Old Daughter from Pond*, Indy Star (May 5, 2018) (online at [www.indystar.com/story/news/2018/05/05/wrongful-death-lawsuit-filed-after-indianapolis-man-dies-saving-daughter-retention-pond/583685002/](http://www.indystar.com/story/news/2018/05/05/wrongful-death-lawsuit-filed-after-indianapolis-man-dies-saving-daughter-retention-pond/583685002/)); *Carlos Solis Had No Idea There Was a Shrapnel Bomb Inside His Steering Wheel*, Houston Press (May 22, 2015) (online at [www.houstonpress.com/news/carlos-solis-had-no-idea-there-was-a-shrapnel-bomb-inside-his-steering-wheel-7455706](http://www.houstonpress.com/news/carlos-solis-had-no-idea-there-was-a-shrapnel-bomb-inside-his-steering-wheel-7455706)).

It is unclear how GSA can continue to sell unrepaired vehicles to the public since federal regulations require the agency to “Ensure the safe and economical operating condition of the motor vehicle throughout its life” and “Ensure that inspections and servicing occur as recommended by the manufacturer or more often if local operating conditions require.”<sup>3</sup>

Checking for and addressing recalls should be a feasible practice for GSA to implement. GSA keeps records of Vehicle Identification Numbers (VINs) for vehicles in the GSA Fleet. Those VINs can be easily cross-referenced with existing databases to check for recalls.

The Subcommittee requests that GSA refrain from leasing or selling any vehicles subject to recall until the Subcommittee’s review of this matter is complete. Please provide written confirmation that you will comply with this request by September 18, 2020.

To assist the Subcommittee in its review of this matter, please answer the following questions by September 23, 2020:

1. How many vehicles are currently in the GSA Fleet?
2. When a manufacturer notifies GSA of a recall as the owner of a vehicle, what is GSA’s process for notifying the agencies in possession of the recalled vehicle?
3. What is GSA’s process for ensuring the agencies in possession of the recalled vehicle have the recall remedied?
4. How many GSA fleet vehicles are currently subject to a recall, or multiple recalls, but have not been repaired? Provide a list of all GSA fleet vehicles currently subject to recall, including the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) for each recalled vehicle and identification number for the corresponding recall(s) in a format such as Excel.
5. How many vehicles on average does GSA auction or sell to the public each year? Of these vehicles, approximately how many are under recall at the time of sale? Provide a list of all vehicles slated to be auctioned or sold that are currently subject to recall, including the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) for each recalled vehicle and identification number for the corresponding recall(s) in a format such as Excel or similar.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Subcommittee staff at (202) 225-5051.

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<sup>3</sup> 41 CFR §102-34.275 (emphasis added).

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Raja Krishnamoorthi", written over a horizontal line.

Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

cc: The Honorable Michael Cloud, Ranking Member