



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

December 17, 2008

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Barton:

Thank you for your letter of October 17, cosigned by Congressman John D. Dingell, informing the U.S. Department of Transportation that you agree that the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) should be granted additional time to complete its report evaluating fuel economy standards for medium- and heavy-duty trucks. Your agreement was based on the understanding that there will be no additional delays in this important work.

I can assure you the Department has taken and will continue to take concrete steps to ensure there are no delays in any of the important new programs assigned to the Department by the Energy Independence and Security Act, including the new program for improving medium- and heavy-duty truck fuel efficiency. We have had in place since September 19, 2008, a cooperative agreement with the NAS, which includes the 12-month deadline for completion, but includes a provision that permits an 18-month deadline if Congress expressly authorizes such an extension. We are committed to meeting this deadline.

An identical response has been sent to Congressman Dingell. If I can provide further information or assistance, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary E. Peters".

Mary E. Peters