

April 3, 2019

Frank Pallone (D-NJ)
Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Greg Walden (R-OR)
Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Roger Wicker (R-MS)
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The undersigned consumer, environmental and community advocacy groups urge the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to expedite the investigations the Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency have been undertaking since 2016 into Daimler AG and Mercedes-Benz's diesel emissions systems.

Mercedes-Benz stands accused of installing cheat devices into its diesel vehicles to evade U.S. emissions laws at the expense of consumers and the environment. Mercedes marketed its BlueTEC diesel vehicles as "the world's cleanest and most advanced diesel," but they allegedly emit dangerously high levels of nitrogen oxide (NOx), far exceeding what is legal under U.S. federal and state regulations.

While we applaud the efforts the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have made in holding diesel emissions violators accountable, including the Volkswagen dieselgate guilty plea and Fiat Chrysler settlement, it is past time for greater urgency and action from regulators and Congress on the allegations against Mercedes. In February last year, Senators Ed Markey (D-MA) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) sent a letter to the DOJ ([link](#)) inquiring into the investigations of the automaker that reportedly began in 2016, but to our knowledge no update has been provided and no action has been taken. Meanwhile, owners and lessees of Mercedes diesel vehicles have been left without answers or recourse while the illegally polluting vehicles remain on U.S. roads.

Daimler AG and Mercedes allegedly misled American consumers who now face an out-of-pocket loss for future attempted repairs, future additional fuel costs, decreased vehicle performance, and diminished vehicle value. Moreover, compared to the repercussions Volkswagen faced after admitting to strikingly similar allegations, which included severe fines and mandatory buybacks or repairs to tainted diesel vehicles, nothing has been done to hold Mercedes-Benz accountable in the U.S.

The signatories of this letter have worked to support efforts that protect consumers rights and the environment. Congress and the administration have a responsibility to protect American consumers,

public health and the environment. Just as Congress played an important oversight role in Volkswagen's dieselgate, it can do the same in bringing Mercedes-Benz to justice.

We urge you to aid U.S. consumers by compelling the DOJ and EPA to provide an update into their nearly three-year-old investigation and, if appropriate, take action against Daimler AG and Mercedes-Benz for violating U.S. law. American consumers need to know their government is on their side. The time is now to make good on that commitment.

Sincerely,

Jason Levine
Executive Director
Center for Auto Safety

Linda Sherry
Director of National Priorities
Consumer Action

Jack Gillis
Executive Director
Consumer Federation of America

Sally Greenberg
Executive Director
National Consumers League

Dan Becker
Director
Safe Climate Campaign

Will Anderson
Associate Director for Advocacy
Sierra Club

CC:

Members of House Committee on Energy and Commerce & Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation