

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade
Member Debbie Dingell

Markup of 12 Bills, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade

February 10, 2026

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I've spent my life at the heart of the American auto industry. As many of you know, I was born and raised in Michigan, and cars have always been a core part of my identity.

Our industry has long been treated like a ping-pong ball, bouncing from administration to administration. This uncertainty puts us at a disadvantage and does not support long-term investment, protect American jobs, or keep our industry competitive as the world continues to move toward electrification and next-generation vehicle technologies.

Every day we delay, global competitors and foreign adversaries, including China, pull further ahead in EVs, autonomous vehicles, and connected technologies. Congress must act to give our industry certainty, strengthen domestic manufacturing, and ensure American workers are part of this future.

We need a fully functioning NHTSA, and we must reauthorize critical safety programs in a bipartisan manner. NHTSA must finalize its Congressionally mandated safety rules to prevent crashes, injuries, and death.

At the same time, autonomous and connected vehicles are no longer a far-off future. They are here today, and without strong oversight, gaps in regulation will be exploited by bad actors and foreign competitors, putting safety and privacy at risk.

Safety should never be partisan. NHTSA must have tools, resources, and authority to oversee today's technologies. This includes protecting consumers, ensuring safe repair access, making life-saving technologies accessible, addressing catalytic converter theft, and safeguarding survivors from misuse of connected vehicle technologies.

For decades, this Committee has delivered results by working across the aisle. Today, we must protect consumers, support innovation, and keep the American auto industry a global leader.

I look forward to working on the bills and keeping our roads safe while ensuring our industry continues to prosper.

February 10, 2026

Page 2

Thank you, and I yield back.