

NEWS

From Rep. BOB CARR



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CARR ORDERS INVESTIGATION OF PENA DECISION Independent Inspector General at DOT to Begin Work Immediately

FLINT — Restating his strong opposition to Transportation Secretary Federico Peña's decision, U.S. Rep Bob Carr today used his authority as Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation to order an independent investigation of Peña's decision on GM's C/K pickup trucks made from 1973 to 1987. The investigation, by the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Transportation, begins immediately.

"I am asking the Inspector General to investigate why recommendations of the technical safety experts at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration were ignored and if the Transportation Secretary violated or improperly deviated from the department's regulatory and administrative procedures," Carr said. "I have followed this case too closely for too long to sit back and allow a bad decision to stand without serious investigation."

As Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Carr can request the Inspector General to investigate. That investigation begins immediately. Carr has asked the Inspector General to report back to him within 30 days.

The Inspector General's office at the Transportation Department was established in 1978 to provide an objective and independent organization to keep Congress fully informed of problems in Department operations.

"Secretary Peña's initial decision is dead wrong and way out of line. He ignored the facts and ignored the experts. He overruled a sound analysis and the technical expertise of the safety experts," said Carr. "I've made my views clear to Secretary Peña and to the President. It's time for the Inspector General to investigate both the substance and the procedures of the Secretary's decision."

Secretary Peña ordered a public hearing following his initial decision that a safety defect exists in C/K pickup trucks made from 1973 to 1987. After the hearing, the Secretary can order a mandatory recall.

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