



March 29, 2007



The Honorable Mary E. Peters
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Peters,

The American Association of Law Libraries, American Library Association, and the Special Libraries Association are pleased to learn that space has been found for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reading room in the new facilities. We look forward to meeting with Margaret O'Brien, Chief Information Officer of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on April 2, 2007 to discuss the future of the reading room.

We understand the need to conserve space but we believe that the needs of researchers should be top priority. The users of the reading room will find it difficult if not impossible to find all the documents they need if most of the older ones are housed at the National Archives at Suitland. Archives are not designed for active daily research. We are told that only the last ten years of NHTSA material is available on the web and since many issues span decades, it is important to have the older documents in the reading room or stored off site where they are available within twenty four hours.

Since the work and records of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration are so vital to the safety of the public, we look forward to working with you to assure public access to this valuable collection.

Sincerely,

Mary Alice Baish

Mary Alice Baish
American Association of Law Libraries

Lynne E. Bradley

Lynne Bradley
American Library Association

Doug Newcomb

Doug Newcomb
Special Libraries Association

cc

The Honorable James Oberstar
The Honorable Daniel Inouye
The Honorable Max Baucus
The Honorable Margaret O'Brien