

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301

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www.science.house.gov

April 24, 2018

Mr. Larry D. Thompson
Counsel
Finch McCranie LLP
225 Peachtree Street, NE
1700 South Tower
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Thompson,

On April 12, 2018, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology launched an investigation into the ongoing allegations that Volkswagen AG (VW) is continuing to circumvent global emissions requirements using stealth technology.¹ Over the weekend, the *New York Times* reported that your team recently issued a confidential report on VW – a report required under the settlement between the U.S. government and VW (“the Thompson Report”).² The Thompson Report would shed light on the ongoing allegations that VW and its subsidiaries conspired to cheat emissions tests. The purpose of this letter is to request a copy of the Thompson Report.

In light of the media reports revealing repeated raids on VW’s Porsche and Audi affiliates, the Committee determined it was necessary to request answers from the company. The Committee, under my leadership, has advocated a restrained approach to regulations; however where regulations are deemed necessary, any efforts to circumvent those rules can result in unfair competition and public harm. The Committee is wary that more and more companies will use emerging technologies to manipulate and defeat U.S. and European regulations on emissions standards. Additionally, there is concern these defeat devices may not be limited to the automotive industry. Therefore, the Committee has an obligation to understand the depth and breadth of the usage of this technology.

¹ Letter from Hon. Lamar Smith, Chairman, H. Comm. on Sci., Space, & Tech. and Hon. Dana Rohrabacher, Member, H. Comm. on Sci., Space, & Tech. to Mr. Herbert Diess, Chief Exec. Officer, Volkswagen AG (Apr. 12, 2018).

² Jack Ewing, *Overseer Faults Volkswagen’s Reform Efforts Since Emissions Scandal*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 22, 2018), <https://nyti.ms/2vxW5Ud>.

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The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology has jurisdiction over environmental and scientific programs and “shall review and study on a continuing basis laws, programs, and Government activities” as set forth in House Rule X. We request that you provide the Committee with an electronic copy of the Thompson Report as soon as possible but no later than May 7, 2018. If you have any questions about this letter or transmission of the Thompson Report, please contact Troy Hall of the Committee staff at 202-225-6371. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Lamar Smith
Chairman



Dana Rohrabacher
Member

cc: The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Ranking Member, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology