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The Honorable Triston Cole
124 North Capitol Avenue, S1389
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Representative Cole:

On behalf of General Motors, I am writing to urge you to support HB 4466 introduced by Representative Howrylak. General Motors believes this bill is a step in the right direction for reducing distracted driving and making Michigan roads safer.

HB 4466 would update Michigan's current texting while driving law to prohibit a driver from holding or using a portable electronic device while operating a vehicle unless they are safely pulled over and stationary.

General Motors supports HB 4466 due to the fact that we encourage the use of integrated technology systems that support drivers keeping their eyes on the road and hands on the wheel. We have developed infotainment systems and recommend the customer linkage/pairing of cellular devices with their vehicle that would allow hands free phone use. According to the National Safety Council, cell phone use is now estimated to be involved in 26% of all motor vehicle crashes. Currently, 14 states as well as Washington D.C. have banned hand-held cell phone use while driving.

Strong highway safety laws with well-publicized enforcement are a proven countermeasure for changing driver behavior as was seen when stricter seat belt and drunk driving laws were implemented. General Motors has always been a strong advocate for traffic safety and we continue to investigate ways to reduce driver distraction. I urge you to support this crucial legislation minimizing driver distraction and improving the safety of our Michigan roads.

Thank you for allowing General Motors to provide input on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Brian O'Connell
Regional Director, State Government Relations