

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3605

July 27, 2020

New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, Commissioner Mark J.F. Schroeder  
159 East 125 Street, 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10035

Dear Commissioner Schroeder,

As you are aware, there has been an unusually high number of incidents involving users of Revel mopeds, which are authorized to operate in communities around the state, including within my district. These vehicles, which can sometimes reach a maximum speed of over 30 mph, have been involved in a number of injuries and some fatalities, and I believe your agency should suspend its operations until important changes are made to ensure the safety of all roadway users.

This weekend, one of my constituents from the Inwood neighborhood was badly injured when he was driving a Revel moped and lost control of the vehicle and struck a pole during the early morning hours. The young man remains in critical condition days after the incident. Similarly, there was also a reported incident involving a mother and child that resulted in the infant being knocked out of her stroller when a Revel moped hit them. Fortunately, the baby only suffered minor injuries, but a situation like this could have easily turned fatal and we can only image the heartache of this family had the circumstances been different. Others have witnessed Revel users driving at unsafe speeds in bicycle lanes, which are designed specifically to protect bikers from motor vehicles, in order to circumvent traffic.

There has been an uptick in the number of Revel-related emergency room visits over the past month. While the company is notorious for its lackadaisical requirements, user training and compliance, local emergency room personnel and medical professionals are reporting an increase among incoming patients simply due to preventable commonsense street safety and compliance. Following a series of reports over the past few days, it has become clear that there are serious safety implications for Revel users, other vehicles on the road, and bystanders. However, Revel has failed to implement proper guidelines that would make mandatory the use of helmets for its drivers and passengers, proper and mandatory moped training, and licensing requirements in order to operate a moped.

Last year, I introduced the *Safe and Friendly for the Environment (SAFE) Streets Act* and the *Complete Streets Act*, which would direct more federal funds toward making our streets safer for all roadway users, particularly pedestrians and bicyclists, while helping to save lives and encouraging better protection of the environment. You and I know that improving pedestrian safety and biker accessibility will have a tremendous impact throughout our neighborhoods and communities in New York, and we cannot stand by silently as these mopeds continue to cause grave harm to residents and families.

We each have a stake in keeping our streets safe and taking the necessary measures to prevent injuries and the unnecessary loss of life. So, I respectfully urge the New York Department of Motor Vehicles to take a stand for New Yorkers and remove Revel from operations within the state until the company has implemented adequate and updated regulations and training and safety measures to ensure these motorized vehicles no longer present a danger to residents and the safety of our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,



Adriano Espaillat (NY-13)  
Member of Congress

CC: Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo  
Office of Mayor Bill de Blasio  
Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez, New York Department of Transportation