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RANKING DEMOCRAT:

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2308

October 24, 2005

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Mr. Hal Stratton
Chairman
Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-4408

Dear Chairman Stratton:

As an avid bicyclist and longtime campaigner for bicycling safety, I want to bring to your attention a new standard for safe retention and removal of quick release bicycle front wheels. It is a simple solution to one of the leading bicycling safety concerns.

The new system developed by Montague automatically engages the front wheel as soon as enters the fork of the bicycle. Once the wheel is engaged in the bicycle, it cannot be removed without manually-held disengagement of a locking system, thereby overcoming inadvertent failures to properly deploy the quick release engagement system as sometimes occurred under the old system.

Because the new Montague standard offers such an increased safety advantage, I urge you to cooperate with Montague to fully evaluate their offering, and when evaluation is completed, to adopt new language in CPSC regulations requiring quick-release equipped bicycles to only allow front wheel removal when a locking system is manually engaged during the process of wheel removal. This will encourage cycling while reducing wheel related bicycling injuries.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,



James L. Oberstar, M.C.

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