



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

MESSAGE FOR THE 1987 DETROIT AUTO SHOW

Change is in the air -- and nowhere more apparent than in Cobo Hall, home of the 1987 Detroit Auto Show. It's hard to believe that in less than a century the automobile has gone from a fantasy to a luxury to a necessity. The automobile industry has given us cars that burn less fuel, combine safety and style, and explore the outer reaches of technology.

Today America's highways play host to 130 million passenger cars -- one third of all those on the face of the earth; nearly 53 percent of U.S. households have two or more motor vehicles. We Americans enjoy the finest highway system in the world -- almost four million miles of urban and rural routes including the national Interstate system. And while our motor vehicle fatality rate is among the world's lowest, we still must do more to save lives and prevent injuries on our highways.

I hope you will consider all the safety features as you enjoy the 1987 Detroit Auto Show and inspect the models on display. Because we have a market-oriented economy, you, the consumer, are in large part responsible for the emphasis on safety in vehicle design. You have also helped to bring about improved driver behavior and construction of better highways. Innovations within the automotive industry, along with government safety standards, have dramatically improved the safety of our cars and will continue to do so in the future. But it was drivers by the millions who changed the way we view the drunk driver in this country and who sustain our emphasis on use of child safety seats and safety belts.

The Department of Transportation is working cooperatively with the auto industry to assure the public the safest cars that technology, talent and commitment can reasonably produce. We believe the responsibility for highway safety begins with the auto manufacturer, and extends to individual motorists as well. Safety is still my highest priority. I urge you to make it yours.

With all best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Elizabeth H. Dole', is positioned above the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop for the 'D' in 'Dole'.

Elizabeth Hanford Dole