



General
Services
Administration

Washington, DC 20405

Honorable Jack Brooks
Chairman, Committee on
Government Operations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your committee has requested the views of the General Services Administration (GSA) on H.R. 224, a bill "To limit the acquisition and use of motor vehicles."

GSA opposes H.R. 224. Aside from expanding the present exceptions to the "official use only" requirement and prohibiting the exclusive use of a vehicle by a particular Government employee, the bill simply restates in similar, though not identical terms, the prohibition on the use of Government vehicles contained in 31 U.S.C. 1344. We believe the existing law provides adequate authority to prevent the improper use of Government vehicles. Restating these prohibitions in new legislation would possibly invalidate a long line of Comptroller General decisions which have interpreted the current statute, thus complicating the task of enforcing the restrictions on vehicle use.

If the committee decides to act favorably on H.R. 224, we strongly recommend that, to the extent that provisions of the bill are inconsistent with or change the scope of current law, H.R. 224 should either reference 31 U.S.C. 1344 or specifically amend it to avoid conflicts between statutes.

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The Office of Management and Budget has advised that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the submission of this report to your Committee.

Sincerely,