

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0506

February 15, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
House Committee Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nick Rahall  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Duncan Hunter  
Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Coast Guard  
and Maritime Transportation  
507 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Garamendi  
Ranking Member  
House Subcommittee on Coast Guard  
and Maritime Transportation  
505 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members,

I write to strongly urge you to hold investigative and oversight hearings on the recent catastrophe that occurred on the Carnival cruise ship, the Triumph.

As you know, on February 10, 2013, a small engine fire onboard the Triumph caused power outages that left over 4200 passengers and crew members stranded in the Caribbean for over four days. There were widespread reports of limited access to food, no air conditioning, and severe sewage issues that left passengers in inhabitable conditions.

The cruise line appears to have been completely unprepared to deal with such a major disaster. One small engine fire caused an enormous ship to become dead in the water. We need answers about why this occurred, why there were not adequate back plans, and why it took over four days to get these people safely back to land. Someone must be held accountable.

The cruise industry forcefully defends itself as being a provider of safe, luxurious vacations. Yet the experience onboard the Triumph was anything but. We owe it to the people who lived through this nightmare a swift and thorough investigation into what went wrong and why. The safety of future passengers and crewmembers depends on it.

Thank you for your timely attention to this matter, and I look forward to working with you to ensure all passengers have the safest voyage possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doris Matsui". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

DORIS O. MATSUI  
Member of Congress