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# Lawmaker Says Toyota Withheld Documents

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By JOSH MITCHELL

WASHINGTON—Internal company documents subpoenaed by U.S. lawmakers show that **Toyota Motor Corp.** deliberately withheld records in court cases and engaged in a "systematic disregard for the law," according to the chairman of a House committee investigating Toyota's safety crisis.

## Escalating Problem

Track the NHTSA-Toyota relationship.



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The documents, obtained as part of a subpoena issued by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, were produced by Dimitrios Biller, a former in-house lawyer for Toyota who is now involved in litigation with the auto maker.

In a letter to Yoshimi Inaba, chief of Toyota's North America operations, Rep. Edolphus Towns (D., N.Y.), the Oversight Committee chairman, demanded answers about the documents.

"We have reviewed these documents and found evidence that Toyota deliberately withheld relevant electronic records that it

was legally required to produce in response to discovery orders in litigation," according to the letter, reviewed by Dow Jones Newswires.

A Toyota spokeswoman wasn't immediately available for comment. Toyota has denied accusations by Mr. Biller that it withheld evidence of safety problems from regulators and consumers.

Write to Josh Mitchell at [joshua.mitchell@dowjones.com](mailto:joshua.mitchell@dowjones.com)

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