



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

July 28, 2005

The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd
United States Senator
100 Great Meadow Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109

NVS-216 et
Ref. No. 10129110

Dear Senator Dodd:

Thank you for your correspondence dated April 18 on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] wrote concerning the problems he has encountered with his model year 1999 AM General Hummer H1 vehicle.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain serious safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect may exist. We cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided on behalf of [REDACTED]. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Each report is analyzed and entered into a database to help us determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect is warranted.

While frustrating, the type of engine problem [REDACTED] described will not likely result in an unreasonable risk to public safety within the meaning of our authorizing statute. The engine problem described typically provides warning signs to the vehicle owner in terms of oil leak, coolant leak, and a gradual loss of engine power, before a complete loss of engine power would occur. Furthermore, our database shows only one other similar consumer complaint on the same model, model year vehicle. Therefore, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation.



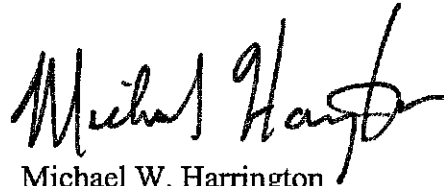
DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE
888-DASH-2-DOT
888-327-4236

Page 2

The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please have your staff contact me or Mr. Ronald L. Medford, Senior Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety, at (202) 366-1810.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Harrington". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael W. Harrington
Director of External Affairs

cc: Washington Office