

NHTSA ccmMercury Routing Slip**Congressional**

Printed: 10/19/2005

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Rec'd Date: 10/18/2005
Doc Type: CNG
Address To: DOT/

2005 OCT 20 AM 7:51
Referred By: NEC-110
Doc Date: 9/29/2005
Due Date: 10/28/2005

S10 #: DOT/I #: 2005-6016 RMP #:
Subject: LTR FM DAFEYO TUBMAN DEFECTIVE FRONT RIGHT DAYTIME RUNNING LAMP
CONSTANTLY FAILING ON HIS 2002 VW PASSAT, REPLY DIRECTLY TO CONSTITUENT & COPY
OFC, REF E805-008658 /S/ HARRINGTON 8/16/05

Ack Date:
Sign Office: EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS
Cleared Date:
File Loc:
Added By: SHARRIS x62534

Ack By:
Signature: HARRINGTON
Cleared By:
XREF File:
Modified By: SHARRIS

Signed For:
Cleared For:
Closed Date:

Most Recent Comment:

Author:

10141016

The Honorable BARBARA MIKULSKI
UNITED STATES SENATE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510
Tel: 202-224-4654 Fax: E-mail:

Assigned To	Task	Assign Date	Deadline	Returned Date
NVS-200	REPLY	10/19/2005	10/28/2005	
NVS-010	INFORMATION	10/19/2005		10/19/2005
NOA02	INFORMATION	10/19/2005		10/19/2005
NIA-110	INFORMATION	10/19/2005		10/19/2005
I10	INFORMATION	10/19/2005		10/19/2005
I20	INFORMATION	10/19/2005		10/19/2005

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

2005 OCT 19 P 14:59

Answered
10/20/05
SH

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

September 29, 2005

Ms. Nicole Nason
Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 10408
Washington, D.C. 20590-0003

Dear Secretary Nason:

I am writing to request your consideration of the attached correspondence from [REDACTED]. Please respond directly to Daffeyo Tubman and send a copy to John Leitch of my staff. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Leitch at (202) 224-4654.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

BAM:jrl
Enclosure

2005-6016

ES05-008363

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Randallstown, MD [REDACTED]

June 9, 2005

Senator Barbara Mikulski
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Mikulski:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding an issue with Volkswagen of America, Inc. I currently drive a 2002 Volkswagen Passat and I have had several problems with the front right daytime running lamp constantly failing. Over the last three years that I have had the car, the front daytime running lamp has failed three times. Each time, I have taken the vehicle to the Volkswagen dealership (Russell Volkswagen, Catonsville, Maryland is the dealership to which I take my car) and expressed concerns to them regarding the daytime running lamp. Russell Volkswagen's response is always "the lights frequently burn out because they run daytime running lamps and are always on". Meanwhile, the driver-side daytime running lamp has NEVER failed.

I conducted research on the Volkswagen Passat using the National Transportation Safety Board's website for consumer complaints and there have been many car owners which have complained about the daytime running lamps on their cars. Issues which other car owners have reported have included melted wires, short circuiting in wires and other issues related to the wiring in the light's housing.

This is a considerable concern which I am bringing to your attention. Volkswagen so far has refused to do a recall on the vehicle to fix the problems with the vehicles. I am calling this to your attention in the hopes that you and your colleagues will exert the requisite pressure on Volkswagen to fix the problems willingly.

I have already filed a complaint regarding this issue with the National Transportation Safety Board's Office of Defect Investigations' hotline (1-888-DASH-2-DOT). It is my sincere hope that you and your colleagues will research this issue thoroughly and persuade Volkswagen to fix the problem.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you regarding this situation.

[REDACTED]

cc Volkswagen of America, Inc. Customer Care Center
Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD)
Representative Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD)

14-Oct-05

2005 Senate Report - Governmental Affairs Correspondence
Control Sheet (I-10), Room 10408

Control Number: 2005 - 6016
Date DOT Received: 3/12/2005
Date DOT Entered: 3/12/2005
Member's Date: 9/29/2005
Member Last Name: [REDACTED]
Member First Name: [REDACTED]
Member Organization: United States Senate
Address1:
Address2:
City: Washington
State: DC
Zip: 20510
Constituent File Name: [REDACTED]
Constituent Date:
Action Office: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Subject: an issue with Volkswagen of America, Inc.
Action Office Code: NHTSA
Due Date: 11/2 /2005
Member Contact: Mr. Leitch
Pending: Yes
Member Contact Phone: (202) 224-4654
Closed Date:
Remarks:
Direct Reply/Comeback Copy: Yes
Congressional Affairs Contact: Maria Harrison at (202) 366-4573

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
2005 OCT 18 A 10 16
NATIONAL HIGHWAY
TRAFFIC SAFETY ADM.



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

August 16, 2005

The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-2002

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20690

NVS-216 mec
Ref. No. 10132337

Dear Senator Sarbanes:

Thank you for your correspondence dated July 26 on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] wrote concerning a problem he encountered with the daytime running lamps on his model year (MY) 2002 Volkswagen Passat vehicle. Your correspondence was received on August 3.

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 Mr. Tubman. 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.

NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation has reviewed its database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to problems associated with the electrical and exterior lighting systems in MY 2002 Volkswagen Passat vehicles. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation. The information you provided on behalf of Mr. Tubman has been entered into our database. It will be considered with other reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

If Mr. Tubman has not done so, he may consider contacting his local Consumer Protection Agency, Better Business Bureau, or the Maryland State Office of the Attorney General regarding his problem and his rights under the Maryland State Lemon Law. He may also ask his local dealership for a meeting with the Volkswagen of America, Inc., district manager regarding his problem.



DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE
888-DASH-2-DOT
888-327-4238

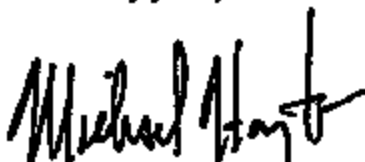
ES05-006658

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The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes

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 W. Harrington". The signature is stylized with a large, prominent "M" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael W. Harrington
Director of External Affairs