

MAR 14 2006

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
8436 West Third Street, Suite 600
Los Angeles, CA 90048

NVS-216 aac
Ref. No. 10150845

Dear Congressman Waxman:

Thank you for your correspondence dated January 23 on behalf of your constituents, [REDACTED] wrote concerning a problem related to the timing chain tensioner on their pre-owned model year (MY) 1999 Jaguar XJ8 vehicle. Your correspondence was received on February 9.

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 this report and the report [REDACTED] provided on December 21, 2005, to Vehicle Safety Hotline. 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.

[REDACTED] also called NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) on February 7, 2006. She was informed that her complaint, Jaguar service bulletin 303-30, and related complaints were provided to ODI's Defect Assessment Division (DAD) for their review. That review has been completed. At this time there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation.

Page 2

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman

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,

Original Signed By

Michael W. Harrington
Director of External Affairs

cc: Washington Office

NHTSA: NVS-210: Congressional Response

NVS-216: aalonso ext: 6-6903

NHTSA Control No. ES06-000847

ODI Control No.10150845

Draft: 2/17/06 aae

Revised: 2/22/06 aae, 2/27/06 aae, 3/06/06 aae

Final: 3/1/06 aae, 3/6/06 aae, 3/08/06 aae

cc:

NEC-110, NIA-110, I-10, I-20, NVS-010, NVS-200, NVS-216

Subject/Chron/Optical Disk/CRD

I:\Congress FY2006\10150845