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APR 17 2006

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senator
225 East Robinson Street, Suite 410
Orlando, FL 32801

NVS-216 aae
Ref. No. 10154111

Dear Senator Bill Nelson:

Thank you for your correspondence dated February 21 on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] wrote concerning problems she experienced with her model year (MY) 2006 Toyota Avalon vehicle. The Federal Trade Commission forwarded your correspondence to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). It was received on March 23.

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.

A review of our database relative to problems associated with the front passenger air bag sensor, rear seat belt, and automatic transmission in MY 2006 Toyota Avalon vehicles revealed insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation at this time. The information [REDACTED] provided has been entered into our database and will be considered with other reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention in the future.

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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: Ms. Anamari Alonso ext: 6-6903
NHTSA Control No. ES06-001806
ODI Control No. 10154111
Draft: 3/28/06 aae
Revised: 3/29/06 aae
Final: 4/5/06 aae, 4/6/06 aae
cc:
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