

OCT 18 2006

The Honorable George V. Voinovich
United States Senator
37 West Broad Street, Suite 300
Columbus, OH 43215

NVS-216 mec
Ref. No: 10170171

Dear Senator Voinovich:

Thank you for your correspondence dated August 25 cosigned with Senator Mike DeWine on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] wrote concerning the problem he encountered with his model year (MY) 2003 Dodge Caravan. Your correspondence was received on October 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 [REDACTED] and his previous correspondence which we responded to on August 11. 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.

We recently reviewed our data in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend had developed with regard to rear brake assembly rust in MY 2003 Dodge Caravan vehicles since our last review. No new evidence was found that would warrant opening a safety defect investigation. We will continue to monitor this alleged problem and will take the necessary steps that may require our attention.

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The Honorable George V. Voinovich

An identical letter has been sent to Senator DeWine. 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: mec 66257

NHTSA Control No. ES06-006331

ODI Control No. 10170171

DOT/I# 2006-8186

Draft: mec 10/05/06

Revised:

Final: mec 10/11/06

cc:

NVS-010, I10, I20

NEC-110, NIA-110

NVS-200, NVS-216

Subject/Chron/Optical Disk/CRD

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