

NOV 20 2006

The Honorable William D. Delahunt
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

NVS-216 aae
Ref. # 10173295

Dear Congressman Delahunt:

Thank you for your correspondence dated October 24 on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] wrote concerning his model year (MY) 2002 Saturn LS vehicle. Your correspondence was received on November 8.

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 the Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire he provided to NHTSA on August 28, 2006. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Each report is analyzed and entered into a database to determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect is warranted.

We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to the transaxle assemblies and air bag non-deployments in MY 2002 Saturn LS vehicles. There are no similar reports. Therefore, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation at this time. The information provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

Page 2

The Honorable William D. Delahunt

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact
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

NHTSA: NVS-210: Congressional Response

NVS-216: Ms. Alonso ext: 6-6903

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cc:

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