

DEC 5 2006

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
1700 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

NVS-216 mec
Ref. No. 10175355

Dear Senator Boxer:

Thank you for your correspondence dated October 18 on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] wrote concerning the problems she encountered with her model year (MY) 2000 BMW 323i vehicle. The Federal Trade Commission forwarded your correspondence to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for a response.

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 engine wiring harness and throttle body systems in MY 2000 BMW 323i vehicles revealed insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation at this time. The information [REDACTED] provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with any future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

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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: Maria Cruz 66257

NHTSA Control No. ES06-007443

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cc:

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NEC-110, NIA-110

NVS-200, NVS-216

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