

**INFORMATION Redacted PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)**



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 4, 2010

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator
12 The Circle
Georgetown, DE 19947

NVS-216 et
Ref. #10217500

Dear Senator Carper:

Thank you for your correspondence dated March 11 on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] wrote your office concerning his model year (MY) 1992 Winnebago Adventurer. Your correspondence was received on March 18.

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 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 appreciate this and the previous reports [REDACTED] submitted through our website. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. [REDACTED] letter he indicates that the rear axle assembly failed two times in his MY 1992 Winnebago Adventurer motor home and that it is not equipped to carry the weight of the vehicle. He is also concerned that after submitting a complaint to NHTSA in May 2006, he did not receive a response.

We received [REDACTED] prior complaint in the form of a Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire (VOQ). Information submitted by vehicle owners using VOQs are automatically entered into our complaint database; the data is then reviewed and analyzed by NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation to determine whether an investigation is warranted. All complaints are reviewed, if NHTSA feels it is necessary, we will follow up by contacting the vehicle owner. Otherwise the information is entered into our database and used to identify safety-related defect trends. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused [REDACTED]

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We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to design problems, specifically inadequate rear axle capacity in MY 1992 Winnebago Adventurer vehicles. In his letter, [REDACTED] referenced NHTSA Recall Campaign No. 99V-013 which involves installing a higher capacity rear axle in a Fleetwood motor home. [REDACTED] feels his Winnebago motor home is experiencing the same problem as the Fleetwood motor home, and should receive a similar recall remedy. We constantly review information in our database and owner's complaints to compare similar trends in peer vehicles that may reveal a safety defect, analyzing many factors such as the age of the vehicle, the nature and number of failures and the likelihood that we could prove the existence of a defect that presents an unreasonable risk of motor vehicle safety. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation. The information [REDACTED] provided remains in our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require further attention.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Daniel C. Smith, NHTSA's Associate Administrator for Enforcement, at (202) 366-3217.

Sincerely yours,

for Ronald L. Medford
David L. Strickland

cc: Washington Office