



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 6, 2008

NVS-216 nlm
Ref. # 10227332

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your email correspondence dated May 1, 2008, concerning the rack and pinion recall on your model year (MY) 1998 Pontiac Grand Prix GT. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence on May 5, 2008.

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. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. 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.

With regard to your inquiry, vehicles included in NHTSA Campaign No. 02V-286 (copy enclosed) are entitled to one of the following under the Safety Act; inspection of the lower pinion bearing and replacement of the lower pinion bearing as a remedy associated with the recall or reimbursement for lower pinion bearing replacement paid for not more than a year prior to notification. There is no relating time limit for these entitlements.

Our statute does not require manufacturers to reimburse owners for costs associated with a safety recall (e.g., lost wages while the vehicle is being repaired, car rentals, damage caused by the defect, etc.). Nor does the statute authorize the Federal government to reimburse vehicle owners for any costs associated with safety recalls or assist vehicle owners in obtaining reimbursements for costs associated with an alleged defect.



Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, you can complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq>. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald B. Fields". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ronald" being the most prominent.

Ronald B. Fields, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosure:

NHTSA Campaign No. 02V-286