



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 18, 2008

[REDACTED]
Sandwich, IL [REDACTED]

NVS-216 aae
Ref. # 10230669

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your correspondence dated May 31, 2008, concerning your vehicles. Your correspondence was received by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation on June 6, 2008. We also appreciate the previous correspondence which we responded to on April 30, 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. However, we cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

Clearly, engine intake manifold gasket failure is frustrating and costs associated with this type of repair are burdensome. However, the resulting engine damage you described in your letter generally does not result in an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety within the meaning of our authorizing statute. The type of problem you described typically provides warning signs (e.g., engine coolant leakage, the presence of coolant in the engine's oil, etc.) to the vehicle owner or a service technician before a complete engine failure would occur. A search of our database does indicate numerous reports of intake manifold gasket failure; however, our research did not reveal a defect trend of abrupt engine failure. Therefore, NHTSA will not be opening a safety defect investigation at this time. We are enclosing for your information a brochure entitled "Motor Vehicle Defects and Recall Campaigns" which explains the Motor Vehicle Safety Act and our process.

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 that reads "Frank S. Borris II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "F" and "B".

Frank S. Borris II, Acting Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosure: Motor Vehicle Defects and Recall Campaign Brochure