



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

Deputy Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 27, 2008

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senator
1 Church Street, 2nd Floor
Burlington, VT 05401

NVS-216 et
Ref. # 10236092

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for your correspondence dated July 14 on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] wrote concerning a steering vibration and shimmy problem in her model year (MY) 2005 Jeep Wrangler. In [REDACTED]'s email she refers to the problem as the "Jeep Death Wobble."

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 the report you provided on behalf of [REDACTED] and the previous report she provided while visiting NHTSA's Internet web site. [REDACTED] indicated that, in her review of our publicly available database, she had located a number of reports concerning similar problems with Jeep Wrangler vehicles. We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to steering shimmy in MY 2005 Jeep Wrangler vehicles. Although there is insufficient evidence to warrant the opening of a safety defect investigation at this time, the agency will continue to monitor this issue. The information you provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require further attention.



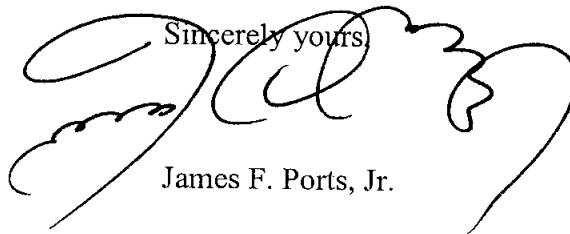
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Our database contains a Technical Service Bulletin (TSB) (Article No. 19-003-06; subject: steering shimmy) issued by Chrysler, which appears to be relevant to [REDACTED]'s complaint. However, the issuance of a TSB does not necessarily reflect the existence of a safety-related defect. NHTSA would need to demonstrate that this activity creates a significant safety risk in order to take action under the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Therefore, NHTSA cannot require Chrysler, at no cost to [REDACTED] the corrective action described in the TSB.

If you have any questions or if your constituent has other issues with her vehicle that she believes to be safety related, please have your staff contact me or Mr. Ronald L. Medford, Senior Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety at (202) 366-9700.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. Ports, Jr.", written over the typed name.

James F. Ports, Jr.

cc: Washington Office