



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

Deputy Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

October 10, 2008

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Albuquerque, NM [REDACTED]

NVS-216 nlm
Ref. # 10242594

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence dated July 12 concerning the inadvertent deployment of the passenger side curtain air bag in your model year (MY) 2001 Saturn SL1 when the front passenger door was closed. Senator Bingaman forwarded your correspondence to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and asked that we respond directly to you.

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

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Each report is analyzed and entered into a database to determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect is warranted. We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to inadvertent air bag deployment in MY 2001 Saturn S-Series vehicles. Although the available data do not warrant the opening of a safety defect investigation at this time, we continually review all available data to determine whether an investigation may be warranted.

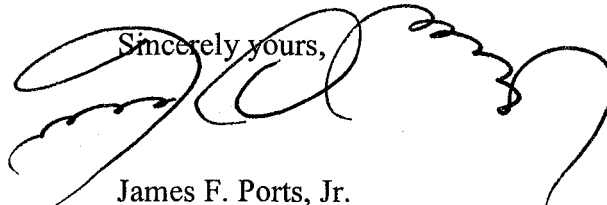
In your letter, you made reference to a safety recall involving other Saturn vehicles to correct a defect that could result in unwarranted side curtain air bag deployment. A search of our database did uncover a recall (00V235) involving certain 2001 Saturn L-Series vehicles. These vehicles



ESD8-005826

contained an improperly calibrated side impact safing sensor. My staff contacted General Motors on your behalf and confirmed that your vehicle is not included in this recall campaign and that your vehicle does not contain the same air bag system components as the recall population. We regret that we are unable to assist you further with this matter. I hope this information is helpful. If you have any additional questions, please contact Mr. Frank S. Borris, Acting Chief, Correspondence Research Division, at (202) 366-8089.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. Ports, Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

James F. Ports, Jr.

cc: The Honorable Jeff Bingaman