



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

October 10, 2008

The Honorable Jo Bonner
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
1302 North McKenzie Street
Foley, AL 36535

NVS-216 mec
Ref. # 10242648

Dear Congressman Bonner:

Thank you for your correspondence dated September 3 on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] wrote concerning his model year (MY) 1996 Toyota Corolla vehicle.

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. 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]. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. In his letter, [REDACTED] describes a problem he experienced with the cruise control in his MY 1996 Toyota Corolla vehicle and his difficulty in contacting Toyota or Rostra Precision Controls (Rostra), the distributor of the cruise control system. He also states that he mailed information concerning this incident to NHTSA on or about July 25. We have searched our database in an effort to locate [REDACTED]'s previous letter. Unfortunately, there is no record that his letter was received. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

[REDACTED] described an incident in his MY 1996 Toyota Corolla vehicle that is consistent with the defect consequence of NHTSA Recall Campaign No. 96E001. Affected vehicles may accelerate above the cruise control set speed. To correct this condition, the recall includes replacement of a vacuum controlled actuator module that is a component of an aftermarket cruise control system distributed by Rostra and installed in vehicles sold by South East Toyota. We contacted South East Toyota and were advised that [REDACTED]'s vehicle was processed



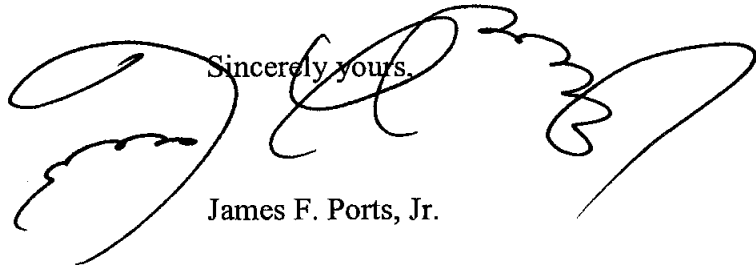
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for importation by South East Toyota Distributors, LLC on November 6, 1995, without a cruise control; therefore, it was not included in the original list of vehicles subject to the recall. However, his vehicle would be involved in the recall if the Rostra cruise control system had been retrofitted by a dealer after processing. We suggest [REDACTED] visit a local Toyota dealer to have his vehicle inspected to confirm whether or not it is equipped with the defective component. Vehicles equipped with a Rostra actuator module with a Julian date code between 3145 and 3615 will be entitled to replacement of the module at no cost. We have enclosed a copy of the recall notice submitted to NHTSA by Rostra. That notice includes the Vehicle Inspection Procedure to be followed by the dealer.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any question please contact me or have your staff contact 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.', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

James F. Ports, Jr.

Enclosure

cc: Washington Office